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Letter from the Publisher

Welcome to the 30th year of *Lindy's* college football. *Lindy's* began publishing in 1982 with our first Southeastern college football issue.

It just happened to be the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant's last year of coaching at Alabama and the Heisman Trophy year for the also legendary running back — Georgia's Herschel Walker.

While a lot has changed in 30 years, the one thing that has not changed is the passion of the college football fan. Almost all of the measurables were up for college football last year — TV ratings, bowl ratings and game attendance.

I want to thank all of the fans who have supported *Lindy's* over the years and made our publications possible. Hopefully, *Lindy's* will still be publishing college issues in 30 years.

Lindy's has added the Mountain West preview to our regional editions this year. It can be purchased on the newsstand in July or ordered from our office/website.

Have a great season!

Sincerely,

Lindy Davis Jr.

Lindy Davis

PS: As *Lindy's* went to press, the Southeast (primarily our home state of Alabama) was hit with one of the most devastating series of tornadoes in U.S. history. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those affected.

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E-mail: lindy@lindyssports.com
www.lindyssports.com

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Audit Bureau of Circulations

Publisher
J. Lindy Davis, Jr.

Senior Editor
Anthony Gimino

Associate Editors
Don Borst, Shawn O'Neal

Production Manager
Norbert Feliciano

Creative
Tracey Fagan, Norbert Feliciano
Ginny O'Neill, Tim Williams

Photo Editor
R.D. Moore

Editorial/Production Assistants
Natalie Chambliss, Mike Chesnick, Ben Cook, Grace Gloss, Geoff Grammer, John Krusinski, Matt Lowe, Deb Naramore, Carol Reece, Kathy Rombough, Lyn Scarbrough, Michele Schmidt, Christoper Wuensch

Advertising/Marketing

James G Elliott Co.

Tom Buttrick • New York
917-421-9051

Keith Bainbridge • Chicago
312-236-4900 (x 1106)

Glenn Datz • Los Angeles
213-624-0900 (x 1220)

Shack Brown • Detroit
248-709-3460

Lyn Scarbrough • Birmingham
205-437-9483

Newsstand
Ralph Perricelli, John Willett, Philip Willett

Office Manager
Kathy Rombough

Orders/Shipping
Grace Gloss

Accounting
Barry Jacobs • Paige Tanner • Agenda Davis

Contributing Writers
Nate Allen, Mark Anderson, Bryant-Jon Anteola, Paul Arnett, Jeff Arnold, Eric Bailey, Nick Baumgardner, Mike Beacom, John Blanchette, Jerome Boettcher, Paul Borden, C.L. Brown, Jim Buice, Rusty Burson, Jack Carle , Chuck Carlton , Guerry Clegg, Bob Condotta, Ben Cook, Chip Cosby, Chadd Cripe, Ken Cross, Bucky Dent, Dominick DiRienzo, Michael DiRocco, Dennis Dodd, Jon Gold, Geoff Grammer, Doug Haller, Craig Handel, Derek Harper, Jim Henry, Eric Hoffses, John Hoover, Donald Hunt, Jimmy Hyams, Sal Interdonato, Greg Johnson, Tom Keegan, Josh Kendall, Cliff Kirkpatrick, Bill Koch, Tony Krausz, Tom Kubat, Eddy Landreth, Jason Lloyd, Matt Lowe, Tom Luicci, Brandon Marcello, Matt Markey, Dave Matter, Mick McGrane, Natalie Meisler, Dave Moormann, Marc Morehouse, James Morgan, Tony Moss, Tom Mulhern, Chris Murray, Tammy Nunez, Jeffrey Parson, Eric Peterson, Steve Pivovar, Jerry Ratcliffe, Jeff Reynolds, Kyle Ringo, Lyn Scarbrough, Rich Scarcella, Frank Schwab, Brad Senkiw, Tom Shanahan, Steve Silverman, James Staley, Phil Stukenborg, Berry Tramel, Jake Trotter, Adam Van Brimmer, Kyle Veazey, Bill Vilona, Jason Vondersmith, Bill Wagner, Aaron Wasser, John Werner, Lindsey Willhite, Larry Williams, Jon Wilner, Steve Wiseman, Scott Wolf, Rick Wright, Kent Youngblood, Paul Zeise

Contributing Photographers
Steve Beyer, Scott Boehm, Tomasso DeRosa, Frank DiBrango, Dennis Hubbard, Doug Holleman, Mike Jula, Ron Kovach, Kirby Lee, Michael A. Marti, R.D.Moore, John Pyle, Joe Robbins, Bruce Schwartzman, Dave Sizer, Brian Spurlock, Todd Van Emst, Michael Wade, John Williamson

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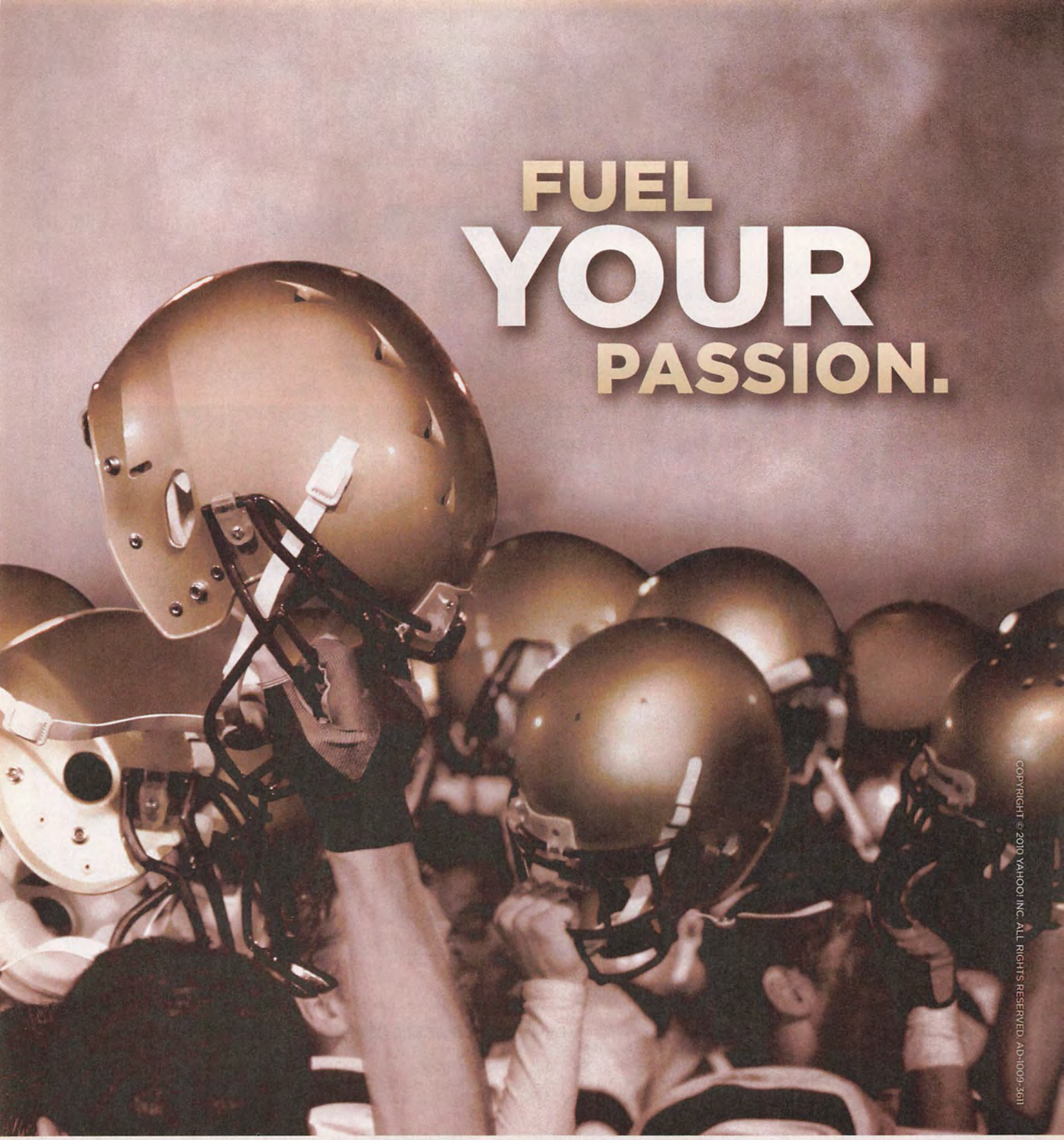

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Who's gonna end the SEC's run? How 'bout these guys?

Photo by Jackson Laizure/Getty Images

1. OKLAHOMA

You could see this one coming. Oklahoma defeated explosive Oklahoma State in the regular-season finale, denied Nebraska a happy swan song in the Big 12 title game and, glory be, finally got back in the BCS win column after five consecutive big-bowl losses, routing UConn.

And, then, when the deadline passed for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft, wide receiver Ryan Broyles and linebacker Travis Lewis still had "Sooners" on the front of their jerseys.

There's just a certain amount of logic to this: By virtue of how the Sooners did last season, who they have coming back this season and a schedule that is tough — but not *too tough* — Oklahoma is *Lindy's* No. 1.

The Sooners never really went away. That 8-5 injury-filled season of 2009 was just that — filled with injuries. There was nothing fundamentally wrong with the program, or with coach Bob Stoops, or with the staff's recruiting. To be back chasing titles is right where Oklahoma belongs.

THE GOOD NEWS: Nine starters are back from a fabulous offense. QB Landry Jones threw for 4,718 yards and 38 touchdowns last season. He's superb on long-range throws, with no shortage of targets that includes Broyles and Kenny Stills. New play-caller Josh Huepel isn't shy. Sophomore RB Roy Finch is another big-play threat. The linebackers are among the best in the nation and OU has ample experience at defensive end.

THE BAD NEWS: The secondary rates as a question mark after the loss of Quinton Carter and others. Starting RT Jarvis Jones is going to miss the start of the season because of a torn patellar tendon, and it would have been nice to have an intact line for the second game of the year — at Florida State on Sept. 17. The 'Noles — and defensive coordinator Mark Stoops — are aching for revenge for a 47-17 rollover in Norman last season.

OUR CALL: An eighth Big 12 title in 12 years would be nice — *will* be nice — but the Sooners have bigger designs than just stepping over laboring Texas, stiffing-arming Bedlam and winning a scaled-down league. The SEC's national championship winning streak has to end sometime, right? OU has the offense and the athletes to do it.

2. ALABAMA

It's our turn again

The BCS national championship has been the exclusive property of the SEC for five straight seasons and the state of Alabama for two years in a row, and the Crimson Tide sees no reason to allow that to change. This year, though, they plan to take the trophy back from arch-rival Auburn ... and you better bring an elephant gun if you plan to stop them and the best collection of defensive backs/linebackers in the country.

THE GOOD NEWS: Nick Saban is a defensive coach who likes to win with defense, and, boy, does he have a defense he can win with. With studs like linebacker Dont'a Hightower, cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick and safety Mark Barron (and much more), 'Bama is loaded for bear.

THE BAD NEWS: The Tide couldn't choose between quarterbacks AJ McCarron and Phillip Sims in spring practice. Indecision there can ruin a team, but knowing Saban, he won't let it be much of an issue. He's kind of funny that way.

OUR CALL: No matter who plays quarterback, handing the football to Trent Richardson behind an offensive line with four starters returning will make the job easy. The SEC West title will likely come down to LSU's trip to Tuscaloosa on Nov. 5.

3. OREGON

Think USC. Only green, and lots of rain.

In a copy-cat college football world, everybody wants what the Ducks are having, and we're not just talking about all the wardrobe changes ... although that has a lot to do with it. It's also the whole spread-option, up-tempo offense, lightning-quick defense, "Win the Day" thing Oregon has going on. Speaking of going, the Ducks aren't going away after battling Auburn on even terms in the national championship game for 59 minutes and 58 seconds.

THE GOOD NEWS: LaMichael James, the nation's leader rusher last season with 1,731 yards, could have gone pro but came back to lead the fastest backfield in the nation. QB Darron Thomas can win with the run or pass. Nobody can change a game faster than CB/PR Cliff Harris.

THE BAD NEWS: Oregon loses three starters from its defensive front, returning only DE Terrell Turner. Will the defensive front seven be ready for the opening-day challenge of big-man LSU in Arlington, Texas? The Ducks' biggest Pac-10 game is on the road, at Stanford.

OUR CALL: To beat the Ducks, you better bring your fast-twitch muscles. This is starting to look like USC from several years ago, with strings of conference championships and continued pursuit of the BCS title.

4. LSU

Sink or Swim with Les

Despite his 2007 national championship, Les Miles has had a rocky relationship with LSU fans. Some love his Mad Hatter game management, and others devalue the BCS title on his resume because it came with players Nick Saban recruited. Well, love him or loathe him, Tiger fans, he's all yours now. When Miles either turned down or wasn't offered the Michigan job, he re-upped in Baton Rouge through 2017.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Jordan Jefferson looked like he knew what he was doing throwing the ball in a Cotton Bowl win over Texas A&M. He doesn't have to match his three passing touchdowns in every game, but the Tigers will be hard to stop if he does.

THE BAD NEWS: It's bad enough playing at Alabama to decide the SEC West. It could get worse if new offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe is the guy who failed in four seasons as the head man at Louisville and not the guy who seemed like the next big coaching thing at Tulsa.

OUR CALL: Replacing CB Patrick Peterson, LB Kelvin Sheppard and RB Stephen Ridley won't be easy, but the Tigers' perennially strong recruiting classes make for little concern. If victorious over Oregon in the opener, it could be party time on the bayou.

5. FLORIDA STATE

'Noles ready for return to prime time

Florida State won't return to national prominence without the gold-standard recruiting classes that defined Bobby Bowden's 1990s teams. Guess what's happening in Tallahassee? Jimbo Fisher is on his way to earning a star on Stadium Drive outside Doak Campbell, chasing a 10-win debut season with a recruiting haul that *Lindy's* — and many, many others — considered the best in the nation. Sixteen starters are back. Could a complete renaissance be far behind?

THE GOOD NEWS: Christian who? QB E.J. Manuel is agile, fast and built to last ... plus he was a part-time starter in '10. Fisher's defense carries itself like a band of back-alley bullies. DE Brandon Jenkins (21.5 tackles for loss, 13.5 sacks last year) is the baddest of them all.

THE BAD NEWS: Manuel might look the part of prototype passer, but he's been an enigma. Part of the issue: Injuries and position-flips canceled a chance for the O-line to develop cohesion in the spring. And while Bert Reed is a nice weapon ... is he a No. 1 receiver?

OUR CALL: Break out the axe handle and ready the tomahawk chop, FSU is on the cusp of being F-S-U again. If they're ready for Oklahoma (Sept. 17), the 'Noles can hit the meat of their schedule with those ol' national title dreams.

6. BOISE STATE

Broncs busted? Hold the blue notes

New conference, but the same old roadmap for Boise State: The Broncos have to win 'em all to even sniff the BCS championship game. The hope — and the hype — of doing just that isn't the same as last season after Boise State lost 11 starters from a 12-1 team, many of them multi-year fixtures. Still, it's mostly business as usual: The Broncos, leaving behind the WAC, are set up for another run at a BCS bowl and a league title in their first year in the Mountain West.

THE GOOD NEWS: Chris Petersen is still coaching. QB Kellen Moore, RB Doug Martin and all but one member of the defensive line that dominated last year are among the returning starters. After opening with Georgia in Atlanta, most of the best opponents — notably, TCU — appear on the blue turf.

THE BAD NEWS: Key playmakers on both sides left titanic holes, chiefly wide receivers Austin Pettis and Titus Young (a combined 142 catches and 19 touchdowns), and safety Jeron Johnson, the team's leading tackler for three straight seasons.

OUR CALL: Moore has to be close to perfect in the biggest games — which probably will happen — and Boise State still could be talking about a "quest for perfection" late in the season.

7. OKLAHOMA STATE

Time to Cowboy up

Boone Pickens isn't getting any younger ... or any more patient. The man who essentially owns Oklahoma State's athletic department isn't shy about saying he wants to win championships. If Mike Gundy can't deliver, T. Boone might T-Bone the former OSU quarterback, no matter that Gundy has four years left on his contract, or whether he's a man who used to be 40. The time to win is now.

THE GOOD NEWS: Wide receiver Justin Blackmon turned his back on the NFL and returns to give standout quarterback Brandon Weeden a go-to threat. Opponents can't get too enamored with Blackmon or else fellow receiver Tracy Moore will make them pay.

THE BAD NEWS: The Cowboys' defense allowed 98 combined points in losses to Oklahoma and Nebraska. Other places, it might be good news that six starters are gone. But OSU may not have the depth to cover those losses. Will the offense still soar without coordinator Dana Holgorsen?

OUR CALL: Oklahoma goes to Stillwater at season's end, but consecutive October games at Texas and Missouri are scary. If Gundy gets by those, he'll have the chance to make T. Boone a happy man with a Bedlam win and perhaps a trip to the BCS.

8. STANFORD

Luck is on their side, but is it enough?

That Andrew Luck is still on The Farm and coach Jim Harbaugh is gone to the 49ers is a trade-off Stanford fans can live with, at least for now. The Cardinal promoted offensive coordinator David Shaw, the team's popular offensive coordinator, so Stanford will roll on, completely committed to a hard-nosed, blue-collar attitude. And having a dizzying array of offensive formations, led by the best quarterback prospect in more than a decade, never hurts.

THE GOOD NEWS: Luck is joined in a loaded backfield by junior Stepfan Taylor, who rushed for 1,137 yards last season. O-linemen David DeCastro and Jonathan Martin are two of the best in the Pac-12. LB Shayne Skov was last seen sacking Virginia Tech three times in the Orange Bowl.

THE BAD NEWS: Shaw doesn't have Harbaugh's boisterous personality, so how is all that going to play out? Stanford has to break in three new starting offensive linemen. Luck is breaking in new WRs and Stanford has to get by Oregon, which begs the question: Does the Cardinal have enough athletes?

OUR CALL: Luck's presence spackles holes elsewhere on the roster and gives the Cardinal a chance to go back to the BCS. Stanford can't afford to falter while the window of opportunity remains wide open.

9. NEBRASKA

Huskers are in Big Ten to win it

Leaving behind its Big 8/Big 12 past — and coming off successive 10-win campaigns for the first time since 2000-01 — Nebraska splashes down in the Big Ten's Legends division. The Cornhuskers packed a title-worthy defense for the trip, and the Blackshirts feature another headlining defensive tackle, Jared Crick (19 career sacks). The key on offense: Mobile but inconsistent QB Taylor Martinez, who could be the key figure in this new chapter ... assuming he holds off what the coaching staff said was a "legit challenge" from Brion Carnes and Cody Green.

THE GOOD NEWS: Playmakers are in ample supply. More importantly, the timing couldn't be better for NU. Ohio State reckons to be a disjointed bunch in its early October visit to Memorial Stadium, and Wisconsin's key personnel losses make the Big Ten opener in Madison less daunting.

THE BAD NEWS: Of Nebraska's key losses, CB Prince Amukamara is the name everyone knows. But the crippling losses might be on the offensive line, where three new starters were introduced to mixed spring reviews.

OUR CALL: Move over, Buckeyes. Nebraska is set to end Ohio State's Decade of Dominance. The Big Ten champ still wears scarlet ... this time mixed with cream, not gray.

10. ARKANSAS

Bringing the Hammer, but not a Mallett

Now we're going to find out how much of Arkansas' resurgence was Ryan Mallett falling into its lap and how much was plucking Bobby Petrino away from the NFL. One of them, or both, was the reason Arkansas made its first BCS appearance last season. Now Mallet is off to the NFL, but Petrino is locked in long term, which makes them go Hog wild in Fayetteville.

THE GOOD NEWS: Backup quarterback Tyler Wilson went 25 of 34 for 332 yards and four touchdowns subbing for an injured Mallett last year against Auburn. So now you know why few panicked when Mallett went to the NFL. It also helps that Knile Davis is back at tailback.

THE BAD NEWS: If you like to throw the ball downfield — and Arkansas does — then you need protection. The loss of three starters on the offensive line, including both tackles, is far from ideal, given the pass-rush talent in the SEC.

OUR CALL: You can be good — darn good — and still not be good enough in the SEC. That's particularly true in the West this year, and it's doubly true because Arkansas must play at Alabama (Sept. 24) and LSU (Nov. 25).

11. SOUTH CAROLINA

Talented crew ready to seize SEC East again

Steve Spurrier delivered South Carolina its first SEC East crown last season when the rest of the division was down, and the Ol' Ball Coach looks to further stomp his foot on the reloading efforts at Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. No team in the East, and few in the country, has as many game-breaking players as the Gamecocks — RB Marcus Lattimore, WR Alshon Jeffery, CB Stephon Gilmore, DE Devin Taylor ... and, very possibly, incoming freshman defensive end Jadeveon Clowney.

THE GOOD NEWS: Lattimore and Jeffery go a long way to making up for whatever deficiencies South Carolina has at quarterback. The Gamecocks cleared big hurdles last season — beating a No. 1 team (Alabama) and winning in Florida's Swamp for the first time ever.

THE BAD NEWS: QB Stephen Garcia compiles suspensions at only a slightly slower rate than he does interceptions. Spurrier professes "complete confidence" in backup Connor Shaw, but the position looms as a major question mark on a team with 13 returning starters.

OUR CALL: Spurrier is still throwing heat at 66. Even with the uncertainty at quarterback, this should be the second 10-win season in school history ... and not playing 'Bama or LSU in the regular season helps.

12. VIRGINIA TECH

Nothing flashy, just 10 more wins in Blacksburg

There's nothing much safer than picking Virginia Tech to nestle somewhere around the Top 10. Frank Beamer's Hokies have posted double-digit victories in each of the past seven seasons. You know who else has done that? Not Texas nor Ohio State. Not Alabama, Ohio State, USC or Oklahoma. In fact, nobody. Let's just assume that no matter the personnel turnover or the schedule that the Hokies are going to win the Coastal Division and get 10 wins or more.

THE GOOD NEWS: Jayron Hosley is just another standout Tech cornerback. He had nine interceptions last season. RB David Wilson is no longer an apprentice; he's a zippity-quick No. 1 back. The non-conference schedule isn't overly taxing. Hokies miss FSU in the regular season.

THE BAD NEWS: QB Logan Thomas played to good reviews in the spring, although a drop-off from ACC Player of the Year Tyrod Taylor can't be helped. Beamer shuffled the coaching staff in the offseason ... for the better or worse?

OUR CALL: The Hokies, while not looking scary-good, don't appear to have many "losable" games on their schedule. Of course, we said the same thing before they played James Madison last year, too.

13. TEXAS A&M

Big 12 title would be nice payoff for Sherman's crew

Mike Sherman started to make good last year on that seven-year contract he signed after the 2007 season, looking less like an NFL retread and more like a guy who can get and keep Texas A&M back among the top of the Big 12. After a 9-4 season — with feel-good wins over Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas — Sherman climbed to .500 (19-19) over his three years in College Station. With this team's offensive riches and 18 returning starters, the Aggies will be scaling higher.

THE GOOD NEWS: Last season turned around when QB Ryan Tannehill took over as the starter. He's back, with primo target Jeff Fuller and RB Cyrus Gray, who finished with six consecutive 100-yard efforts, including a 223-yard beat-down against Texas. RB Christine Michael is back from injury.

THE BAD NEWS: The Aggies' six-game conference winning streak — and a Von Miller-less defense — will be tested right away in the league opener vs. visiting Oklahoma State. The road to the Big 12 title goes through Norman on Nov. 5.

OUR CALL: Sherman has built this the right way, absorbing inevitable lumps as he played so many young players after he arrived. The payoff should be pretty sweet.

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14. OHIO STATE

A Tale of two seasons

The Buckeyes have a host of unknowns, and not just because they lost seven starters on defense, five on offense and their kicker. That only hints at the holes OSU must fill, because quarterback Terrelle Pryor, tailback Daniel Herron, receiver DeVier Posey, tackle Mike Adams and defensive tackle Solomon Thomas must sit out the first five games because of an NCAA suspension. Oh, yeah, head coach Jim Tressel can't coach on game day for those first five games, either.

THE GOOD NEWS: OSU is scheduled to get Tressel, Pryor and Co. back before the season turns its most difficult, starting with a road game at Nebraska on Oct. 8. And in its division of the new Big Ten, Ohio State gets Wisconsin and Penn State at home.

THE BAD NEWS: The offense looked dreadful in the spring, with none of Pryor's four possible successors taking command. Just run it then? Sorry, Herron is OSU's only proven commodity at tailback. The suspensions mean the Bucks will be short-handed at Miami and vs. Michigan State.

OUR CALL: Don't spit on their grave yet. Division rivals Penn State and Wisconsin have questions, too. This isn't a national-championship edition, but bet on OSU playing in the inaugural league title game.

15. TCU

Can the D-train keep rolling at TCU?

Gary Patterson is 98-28 in Fort Worth, so there will be no eulogy for a TCU team that has to replace quarterback Andy Dalton. The Horned Frogs, the nation's leader in total defense three years running, have a scheme that hasn't been cracked in the Mountain West and they are good enough to reach the key stretch in their schedule unscathed — Oct. 28 against newly independent BYU at Cowboys Stadium, Nov. 12 at Boise State.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Casey Pachall inspired excessive confidence in the spring as a mobile and accurate passer. RB Ed Wesley averaged 6.5 yards per carry in 2010 and becomes TCU's featured attraction. LB Tank Carder wowed Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl and has an NFL future.

THE BAD NEWS: TCU was gutted up the middle, losing Dalton, three offensive line starters and three defensive line starters. With Boise State and TCU being two football ships passing in the Mountain West night, the Frogs must take this title on the blue turf, where nobody ever wins.

OUR CALL: With a modest 10 starters back, the follow-up to a 12-0 regular season and momentous Rose Bowl victory suggests a slide in TCU's final MWC season. But the Horned Frogs won't fall far.

16. GEORGIA

These Dawgs won't stay down

Georgia, 6-7 last season, is coming off its first losing record since 1996, so the talk in the offseason is about how many victories coach Mark Richt needs to keep his job. Nine? How about mixing in a win over rival Florida and its new coach, Will Muschamp? Richt is under fire but hasn't gotten dumb in the past couple of years, and he hasn't stopped recruiting. With ample talent, the problems of last season — A.J. Green's suspension, lack of effort and conditioning — are non-issues and fixable in 2011.

THE GOOD NEWS: Sophomore Aaron Murray should be one of the better quarterbacks in the SEC. P Drew Butler and PK Blair Walsh form the best kicking combo in the country. And let's face it: Not having to playing Alabama, LSU and Arkansas is H-U-G-E.

THE BAD NEWS: Murray doesn't have the comfort of throwing to Green, and the Dawgs are looking for someone special to step up other than Tavarres King. The Dawgs beat nobody who ended up with a winning record last season.

OUR CALL: Georgia gets to prove it in the first two weeks — vs. Boise State (in Atlanta) and home against South Carolina — but we're saying this is a big-time bounce-back season.

17. WISCONSIN

No feet of Clay? No worries.

If there were a museum for Big Ten football, Bret Bielema could keep Woody Hayes and Bo Schembechler company in the dinosaur section. While everyone else has gone ga-ga over the spread, Bielema continues to pound away with the same physical style Barry Alvarez used to make the Badgers relevant. OK, so tailback John Clay left early for the NFL. Who cares? James White and Montee Ball are ready to bring the pain.

THE GOOD NEWS: White and Ball are elite backs with enough style differences to form an ideal one-two punch. Wisconsin never runs out of hulking linemen, so it figures to run very well, and that should allow new quarterback Jon Budmayr time to develop.

THE BAD NEWS: Wisconsin is thin in some key areas. Wide receiver Nick Toon and linebacker Chris Borland both missed the spring. If they stay healthy, that soothes a lot of concern. Budmayr also needs a tight end to step forward as a reliable safety valve.

OUR CALL: Budmayr will have five games to get comfortable before a very uncomfortable October. The Badgers play host to Nebraska on Oct. 1, then finish the month at Michigan State and Ohio State. The road game in Columbus tips the Leaders Division to OSU.

18. WEST VIRGINIA

Say goodbye to Stew

It should be an interesting fall in Morgantown. For certain, it will be Bill Stewart's last as head coach. He was not-so-gently shoved aside by athletic director Oliver Luck, who hired coordinator Dana Holgorsen from Oklahoma State as head coach in waiting. So, Uncle Bill and his folksy ways get a victory tour, but if he hadn't agreed to Holgorsen's arrival, Stewart would have been out immediately. His swan song should be memorable, ending with a trip to the BCS.

THE GOOD NEWS: Holgorsen knows how to put up points and he has the quarterback to do it. Geno Smith was All-Big East last year, and with a better stable of receivers than running backs, he appears poised to fit nicely into Holgorsen's spread.

THE BAD NEWS: WVU ranked third nationally in defense a year ago. Even though the Mountaineers kept coordinator Jeff Casteel amid the staff turnover, they didn't keep much in terms of personnel as Casteel must replace seven starters.

OUR CALL: If WVU wants to win the Big East, now would be a good time, before TCU's arrival. Managing the staff politics could be a nightmare, but the talent level is too great to overlook.

19. NOTRE DAME

No turning back now

So much for Brian Kelly having modest expectations entering Year Two. Kelly could have bought himself some more patience among the fan base after back-to-back losses to Navy and Tulsa in late October. It sure looked like it was going to take Kelly more than five minutes to turn things around. But winning four in a row after that, including a victory at nemesis USC and a convincing Sun Bowl triumph over Miami, has Irish faithful thinking big.

THE GOOD NEWS: No one would have tagged quarterback as a position of strength last season, but Kelly developed both Dayne Crist and Tommy Rees into winners. Both figure to be much better this season. The improving defense allowed just 39 points in the last four games.

THE BAD NEWS: Quarterback controversies are never good. Kelly has an impatient streak in him. Whoever he picks as the starter won't flourish if there's a quick hook coming from the sideline. The running game needs a boost to even get to "pedestrian" status.

OUR CALL: With no running back depth, Notre Dame's offense will have to be an air show. That might put the defense on the field a lot, but if that unit plays like it did from November on, the Irish could sneak into the BCS.

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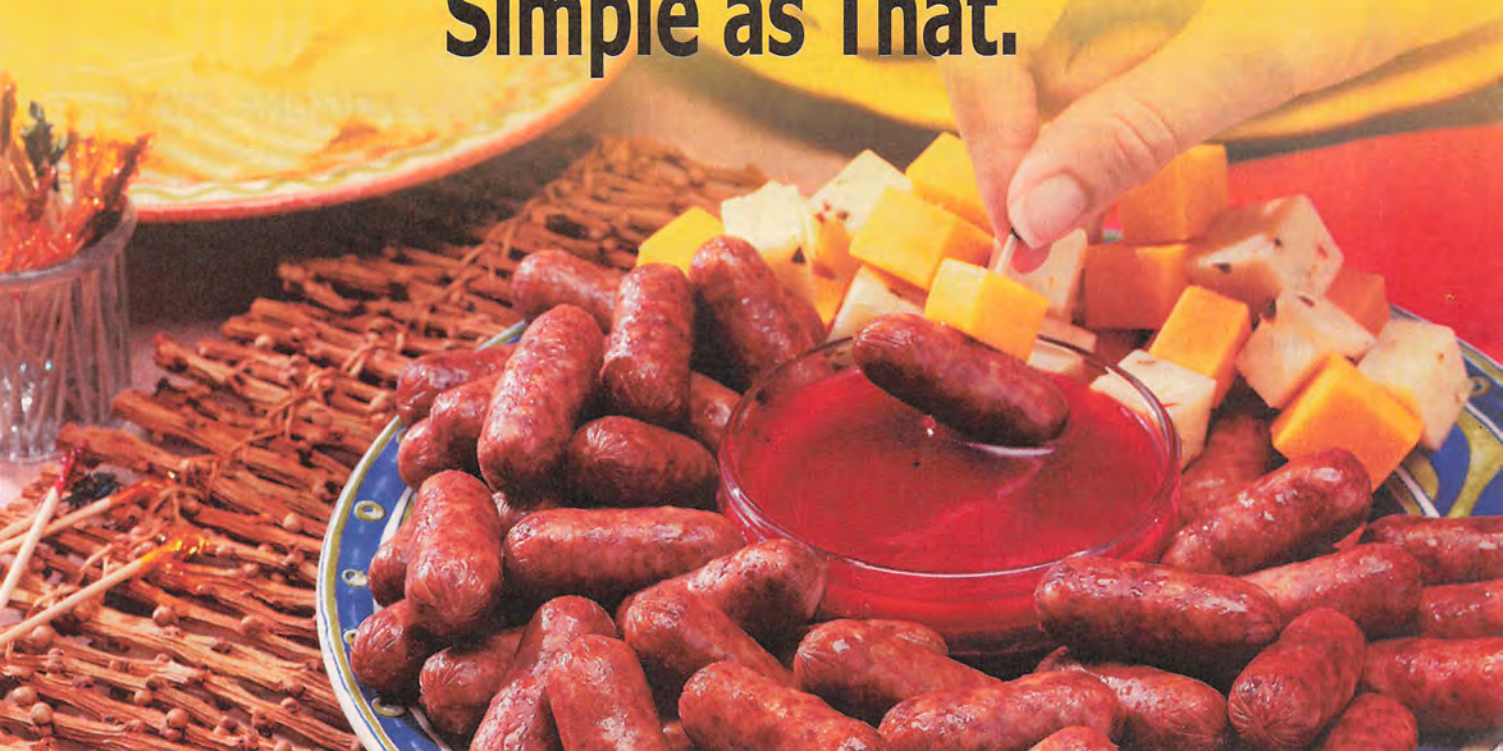

20. FLORIDA

Muschamp must win big. Will it be now or later?

Will Muschamp, lauded for his efforts as defensive coordinator at LSU, Auburn and Texas, traded in his head coach in-waiting card with the Longhorns for a chance to inherit Urban Meyer's good works at Florida. Muschamp will be 40 — he's a man! — when the season begins, and he's long been ready for this moment. He has the kind of gravitational pull that will play with recruits and boosters ... but does he have the quarterback to win big right away?

THE GOOD NEWS: Muschamp brought in Charlie Weis, who hasn't failed as an offensive coordinator. His pro-style attack fits the sensibilities of QB John Brantley, although "still a work-in-progress" described his spring. The Gators look good at linebacker and have speed at running back.

THE BAD NEWS: Here's a tall mountain: Games at Auburn, LSU and South Carolina. The Gators lack power in the running game and aren't yet scary at receiver. The defense's top playmaker — CB Janoris Jenkins — was kicked off the team.

OUR CALL: Being in the back end of the Top 25 isn't Florida's style, but it's a nicer neighborhood, for now, than the ones inhabited by USC, Texas, Michigan, Miami, Tennessee ...

21. MISSISSIPPI STATE

The biggest game is already a win

Mississippi State has never won nine or more games in consecutive seasons in 116 years of football, but it has a head start on doing that in 2011. That's because the Bulldogs are already 1-0 (wink, wink) given that they retained coach Dan Mullen when he seemed certain to be the choice to succeed Urban Meyer at Florida. Mullen's offense could soar this season, and he is aiming for 42 points per game. Oh, is that all?

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Chris Relf, TB Vick Ballard and the team's top four wideouts all return and should build on the success that began late last year with three games of 30-plus points. The running game also was pretty good, ranked 16th in the nation.

THE BAD NEWS: Relf completed 65 percent of his passes last year but threw for only 1,789 yards. If Mississippi State wants to be explosive, he must maintain his completion rate but increase the distance on his throws. On defense, State has three new starting linebackers.

OUR CALL: The Bulldogs have already beaten the odds by getting Mullen back for a third year in Starkville. He probably won't be there forever, so this is the time to strike. Too bad the SEC West is uber-loaded.

22. MICHIGAN STATE

Success will depend on talent in the trenches

Judging by Michigan State's two losses last season — 37-6 at Iowa and 49-7 to Alabama in the Capital One Bowl — there's no reason for Sparty to party. But here's the big picture: A largely unexpected 11-2 season gives coach Mark Dantonio reason to believe he's on the verge of big things in East Lansing. The schedule shapes up favorably for confidence-building, including Oct. 1 at Ohio State before the Terrelle Pryor-led reinforcements return for the Bucks.

THE GOOD NEWS: Defensive-minded Dantonio has one of the best d-lines in the Big Ten. Junior RB Edwin Baker said he's shooting for Lorenzo White (circa 1985) territory — his stated goal is 2,000 yards and 21 touchdowns. QB Kirk Cousins is one of Big Ten's best.

THE BAD NEWS: The kicking game was a crapshoot in spring drills. With only his two starting guards back, Cousins could be in for a long year if the Spartans' three young OL starters buckle under pressure. JC transfer Fou Fonoti is the projected savior up front.

OUR CALL: Repeating as co-Big Ten champions is asking too much. Riding to another New Year's Day bowl game is reasonable, but that depends on Dantonio building a championship-caliber defense.

23. MISSOURI

Hoping Gabbert's success runs in family

Missouri had the perfect triggerman for Gary Pinkel's offense in quarterback Blaine Gabbert, but his early departure for the NFL leaves the Tigers with a giant hole to fill. Can it be filled by Gabbert's brother, Tyler, a redshirt freshman? If so, the Tigers could be the surprise of the Big 12 ... or, well, at least good enough to stay ahead of Texas.

THE GOOD NEWS: Missouri is better positioned to withstand the loss of its headliner on defense than on offense. So, even though DE Aldon Smith is gone, the Tigers shouldn't suffer much. They are deep and talented at end (Jacquies Smith and Brad Madison), which is a big advantage in the pass-happy Big 12.

THE BAD NEWS: Mizzou has four starting linemen, its top five tailbacks and a bevy of wideouts returning. All it lacks — all — is a guy to run the show. James Franklin had an uneven spring and Gabbert did, too. Pinkel might unhappily play both until someone emerges.

OUR CALL: Playing Arizona State, Oklahoma and Kansas State on the road within the first five games is not the way to bring along a young quarterback. Missouri will struggle early, but work its way back into the Top 25.

24. AUBURN

Repeat's not likely, but neither is a big slide

An eighth SEC team in our Top 25? Yeah, it probably won't end up that way — six SEC teams were ranked at the end of the last season, with another receiving votes — but from this preseason outpost, all eight sure appear deserving. Besides, whose going to tell the defending national champs they start the season unranked? While recognizing that the personnel losses cut deep across The Plains, coach Gene Chizik and the team's excellent young talent deserve the benefit of the doubt.

THE GOOD NEWS: Running Back U. is in fine shape. Sophomore Michael Dyer rushed for more yards as an Auburn freshman (1,093) than some guy named Bo. Dyer and RB Onterrio McCalebb will carry the offense in as many ways as possible.

THE BAD NEWS: No Cam Newton. No Nick Fairley. Four starters gone from the offensive line. Will the QB battle (Barrett Trotter, Clint Moseley, incoming freshman Kiehl Frazier) linger? If last season's comeback magic is gone, the Tigers are toast.

OUR CALL: Alabama went from 2009 national champs to fourth in the SEC West in 2010. The same fate — or worse — could await the Tigers. But they'll beat a couple of really good teams along the way.

25. ARIZONA STATE

Fear the fork? OK, yeah. We're kind of spooked.

In a spring re-branding of the athletic department, Arizona State de-emphasized the Walt Disney-styled Sparky mascot in favor of a new pitchfork logo. "Fear the Fork!" the school proclaimed. Really? Can't wait until opposing student sections conjure some clever twists on the word "fork." Beyond the spring fashion show, with new helmets and all-black uniforms, ASU actually might strut on the field with 20 returning starters back from a 6-6 team.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Brock Osweiler, who led ASU to season-ending wins over UCLA and Arizona after Steven Threet went down with a concussion, takes the reins with ample help at the skill positions. LB Vontaze Burfict in an all-black uniform: The most fearsome site in college football.

THE BAD NEWS: All-Pac-10 CB Omar Bolden and WR T.J. Simpson suffered ACL injuries in the spring, endangering their 2011 seasons. The buzz around Osweiler would be stifled if Arizona hadn't dropped four or five easy interceptions. Is the big QB ready for the full-time gig?

OUR CALL: It might not take much to win the first Pac-12 South, and ASU catches a break by missing Stanford in the crossover schedule. The experienced Devils get the nod, with their pitchfork pointing up.

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RATING THE TEAMS 1-120

1. Oklahoma	Big 12	1	6. Boise State	MWC	1	11. South Carolina	SEC	4	16. Georgia	SEC	5	21. Mississippi State	SEC	7
2. Alabama	SEC	1	7. Oklahoma State	Big 12	2	12. Virginia Tech.	ACC	2	17. Wisconsin	Big Ten	3	22. Michigan State	Big Ten	4
3. Oregon	Pac-12	1	8. Stanford	Pac-12	2	13. Texas A&M	Big 12	3	18. West Virginia	Big East	1	23. Missouri	Big 12	4
4. LSU	SEC	2	9. Nebraska	Big Ten	1	14. Ohio State	Big Ten	2	19. Notre Dame	IND	1	24. Auburn	SEC	8
5. Florida State	ACC	1	10. Arkansas	SEC	3	15. TCU	MWC	2	20. Florida	SEC	6	25. Arizona State	Pac-12	3

No.	Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
26.	Miami	ACC	3	Al Golden will mold good talent and make Hurricanes tougher.
27.	USC	Pac-12	4	Could easily win Pac-12 South, but no margin of error with depth.
28.	Texas	Big 12	5	Offense remains broken, but Horns can't be that bad again, right?
29.	Michigan	Big Ten	5	With new-coach energy (and OSU a mess), is Big Blue on way back?
30.	Clemson	ACC	4	Early three-game stretch: Auburn, Florida State, at Virginia Tech.
31.	North Carolina	ACC	5	Ample NFL talent remains after suspension-filled 2010 season.
32.	Texas Tech	Big 12	6	Another solid outfit, but are Raiders still as explosive offensively?
33.	USF	Big East	2	Won at Miami last season; QB B.J. Daniels back to lead offense.
34.	Baylor	Big 12	7	Looking to make a statement in Thursday opener vs. TCU in Waco.
35.	Air Force	MWC	3	Veteran offensive personnel will make Falcons tough to stop.
36.	Penn State	Big Ten	6	Joe Paterno's 46th season might be merely above average.
37.	San Diego State	MWC	4	Rocky Long back as a head coach, trying to maintain momentum.
38.	Pittsburgh	Big East	3	Todd Graham brings energy, spread offense to Panthers.
39.	UCF	C-USA	1	Building off bowl win vs. Georgia; looking to repeat in C-USA.
40.	BYU	IND	2	Tough early sked awaits for QB Jake Heaps, now-indy Cougars.
41.	Iowa	Big Ten	7	OL is very good, but there is a lot of rebuilding to do on DL.
42.	Utah	Pac-12	5	Three straight years of double-digit wins, but this ain't the MWC.
43.	Maryland	ACC	6	Terps booted Ralph Friedgen, hired a good one in Randy Edsall.
44.	Northwestern	Big Ten	8	With QB Dan Persa back, Wildcats looking for fourth straight bowl.
45.	Southern Miss	C-USA	2	Will challenge in C-USA behind veteran QB Austin Davis.
46.	Georgia Tech	ACC	7	Should start fast against easy schedule to erase 2010 memories.
47.	Arizona	Pac-12	6	Wildcats carry burden of five-game losing streak into new season.
48.	Cincinnati	Big East	4	Big drop-off last year but strong offensive points to a bounce-back.
49.	Connecticut	Big East	5	New coach Paul Pasqualoni breaks in new quarterback, running back.
50.	Boston College	ACC	8	Streaky 2010 team brings back RB Montel Harris, LB Luke Kuechly.
51.	Washington	Pac-12	7	With Jake Locker: Fringe bowl team. Without Jake: Kinda the same.
52.	Tennessee	SEC	9	Just not the same ol' talent level. Is QB Tyler Bray the answer?
53.	SMU	C-USA	3	With high-powered offense, should repeat as West Division champs.
54.	Houston	C-USA	4	The Cougars' passing attack should scare anyone they play.
55.	Cal	Pac-12	8	Lost Bay buzz; 2010 was first losing record in Tedford's nine years.
56.	Tulsa	C-USA	5	Prolific offense will be tested by Oklahoma, Okie State, Boise State.
57.	Navy	IND	3	Coaches high on QB Kriss Proctor, filling the shoes of Ricky Dobbs.
58.	Purdue	Big Ten	9	QB battle? Robert Marve (ACL) returns in fall to battle Rob Henry.
59.	NC State	ACC	9	Nine wins last season was most for the Wolfpack since 2002.
60.	Oregon State	Pac-12	9	Whither the Rodgers? Jacquizz turned pro; James rehabbing knee.
61.	Kansas State	Big 12	8	Cats need more offense; transfer RB Bryce Brown comes on board.
62.	Ole Miss	SEC	10	Houston Nutt losing contact with the rest of the SEC West?
63.	Kentucky	SEC	11	Life without Randall Cobb will make it hard for bowl streak to hit six.
64.	Miami (Ohio)	MAC	1	Before messing up at Pitt, Michael Haywood left team in great shape.
65.	Hawaii	WAC	1	Warriors, with QB Bryant Moniz, take advantage of a down league.
66.	Syracuse	Big East	6	Orange making its way back; another eight wins this season?
67.	Fresno State	WAC	2	No Boise hurdle in 2011; RB Robbie Rouse leads Dogs to title?
68.	Virginia	ACC	10	Just 1-7 in ACC last year, but 19 starters are back for Mike London.
69.	Nevada	WAC	3	Must reload Pistol without Colin Kapaernik and Vai Taua.
70.	Illinois	Big Ten	10	After bounce-back 2010, Illini might have enough for a small bowl.
71.	Louisville	Big East	7	Nice debut season for Charlie Strong, but there's rebuilding to do.
72.	Duke	ACC	11	Defense must improve before close losses turn into close wins.
73.	Iowa State	Big 12	9	New QB, new RB ... and the Cyclones trying to squeeze into a bowl.

No.	Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
74.	UCLA	Pac-12	10	Poor quarterback play continues to dog Rick Neuheisel's rebuilding.
75.	Colorado	Pac-12	11	New coach, new conference could stir the slumbering Buffaloes.
76.	Rutgers	Big East	8	Major overall (assistants, schemes) after last-place finish in 2010.
77.	Troy	Sun Belt	1	Has at least shared Sun Belt title for past five years; here's one more.
78.	Army	IND	4	Rich Ellerson coached 'em up to a bowl, should do the same again.
79.	Indiana	Big Ten	11	Bill Lynch fizzled, so in comes Kevin Wilson from Oklahoma.
80.	Wake Forest	ACC	12	Tumbled last season. Can young skill players lead Deacons back?
81.	Toledo	MAC	2	Went 7-1 in league last year; Rockets just have to sort out QB spot.
82.	East Carolina	C-USA	6	QB Dominique Davis is dynamic; Pirates looking for much more D.
83.	Washington State	Pac-12	12	Just when the Cougs figured they couldn't finish lower than 10th ...
84.	Vanderbilt	SEC	12	New coach James Franklin has a few nice players, just not enough.
85.	Kansas	Big 12	10	Not enough playmakers right now for coach Turner Gill.
86.	Minnesota	Big Ten	12	Jerry Kill comes off successful stint at N. Illinois to lead the Gophers.
87.	FIU	Sun Belt	2	Ready for more good things after posting school's first winning record.
88.	Louisiana Tech	WAC	4	Second-year coach Sonny Dykes should see results in passing game.
89.	Northern Illinois	MAC	3	Ex-Wisconsin asst. Dave Doeren takes over, puts in spread offense.
90.	UNLV	MWC	5	As coach Bobby Hauck says, Rebs are "dang young." But improving.
91.	Wyoming	MWC	6	Easier sked (opens with two FCS schools) will make record prettier.
92.	Marshall	C-USA	7	Second-year coach Doc Holliday's young team has matured.
93.	Ohio	MAC	4	That's 17 wins in past two seasons for Frank Solich's team.
94.	Colorado State	MWC	7	Soft non-conference schedule puts Rams in reach of minor bowl.
95.	Utah State	WAC	5	Some solid experience returns, but not quarterback Diondre Borel.
96.	Rice	C-USA	8	Only six wins in two years, but RB Sam McGuffie is a good one.
97.	Temple	MAC	5	Ex-Florida OC Steve Addazio takes over for moving-up Al Golden.
98.	Western Michigan	MAC	6	Junior QB Alex Carder is team's building block for next two years.
99.	Arkansas State	Sun Belt	3	Wolves have the talent to make a run at the conference title.
100.	Idaho	WAC	6	14 wins in past two seasons two more than in previous five years.
101.	Central Michigan	MAC	7	Just 3-9 last season; needs QB Ryan Radcliff to trim INT total.
102.	UTEP	C-USA	9	Five consecutive losing seasons put coach Mike Price in peril.
103.	La.-Monroe	Sun Belt	4	Veteran offense should have coach Todd Berry's spread figured out.
104.	Bowling Green	MAC	8	Offensive line struggled mightily in 1-7 conference season in 2010.
105.	Middle Tennessee	Sun Belt	5	Probably not going to make it back to a bowl for third time in a row.
106.	Tulane	C-USA	10	Bob Toledo (13-35 in four seasons) needs to win ... right now.
107.	Kent State	MAC	9	Former Ohio State assistant Darrell Hazell is new man in charge.
108.	Florida Atlantic	Sun Belt	6	Panthers open new campus stadium; play first five on the road.
109.	UAB	C-USA	11	Blazers trying to end streak of six consecutive losing seasons.
110.	Memphis	C-USA	12	Steep climb for program that was bad across the board last year.
111.	Buffalo	MAC	10	Defense takes a hit after 2-10 record in coach Jeff Quinn's debut.
112.	Louisiana	Sun Belt	7	Rickey Bustle failed to get to a bowl, so in comes Mark Hudspeth.
113.	Ball State	MAC	11	First-year coach Pete Lembo puts in a new no-huddle attack.
114.	Eastern Michigan	MAC	12	Coach Ron English only 2-22 with the Eagles in two seasons.
115.	New Mexico State	WAC	7	More experienced, but needs more offense to start climbing.
116.	North Texas	Sun Belt	8	Former Iowa State coach Dan McCarney takes over for Todd Dodge.
117.	Western Kentucky	Sun Belt	9	Some signs of progress ... and RB Bobby Rainey is really good.
118.	San Jose State	WAC	8	Injuries were devastating in the team's 1-12 finish last season.
119.	Akron	MAC	13	Second-year coach Rob Ianello has to do what he does best — recruit.
120.	New Mexico	MWC	8	Lobos hope to turn things around.

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Sept 11	LSU (-10) Vanderbilt	27-3	WON
Sept 13	Ravens (+1½) Jets	10-9	WON
Sept 26	Seahawks (+4½) Chargers	27-20	WON
Oct 1	Utah State (+4) BYU	31-16	WON
Oct 2	Oregon (-7) Stanford	52-31	WON
Oct 3	Browns (+3) Bengals	23-20	WON
Oct 16	Wisconsin (+4) Ohio State	31-18	WON
Oct 24	Seahawks (-7) Cardinals	22-10	WON
Oct 28	NC State (+4) Florida State	28-24	WON
Oct 31	Buccaneers (+3) Cardinals	38-35	WON
Nov 2	Ark. State (+1½) Middle Tenn.	51-24	WON
Nov 6	Kansas State (+3½) Texas	39-14	WON
Nov 6	Oklahoma State (-8½) Baylor	55-28	WON
Nov 6	Texas A&M (+3) Oklahoma	33-19	WON
Nov 14	Buccaneers (-7) Panthers	31-16	WON
Nov 15	Eagles (-3) Redskins	59-28	WON
Nov 21	Steelers (-7) Raiders	35-3	WON
Nov 27	Ohio State (-16½) Michigan	37-7	WON
Dec 12	Lions (+7) Packers	7-3	WON
Dec 13	Ravens/Texans (OVER 46)	34/28	WON
Dec 19	Bills (+5) Dolphins	17-14	WON
Dec 19	Jets (+4½) Steelers	22-17	WON
Dec 26	Redskins (+7) Jaguars	20-17	WON

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CRAZY GOOD

The state of Alabama has college football wrapped around its ring finger, but has it sacrificed its sanity?

Rest of nation watches in fascination, horror and envy

By Dennis Dodd

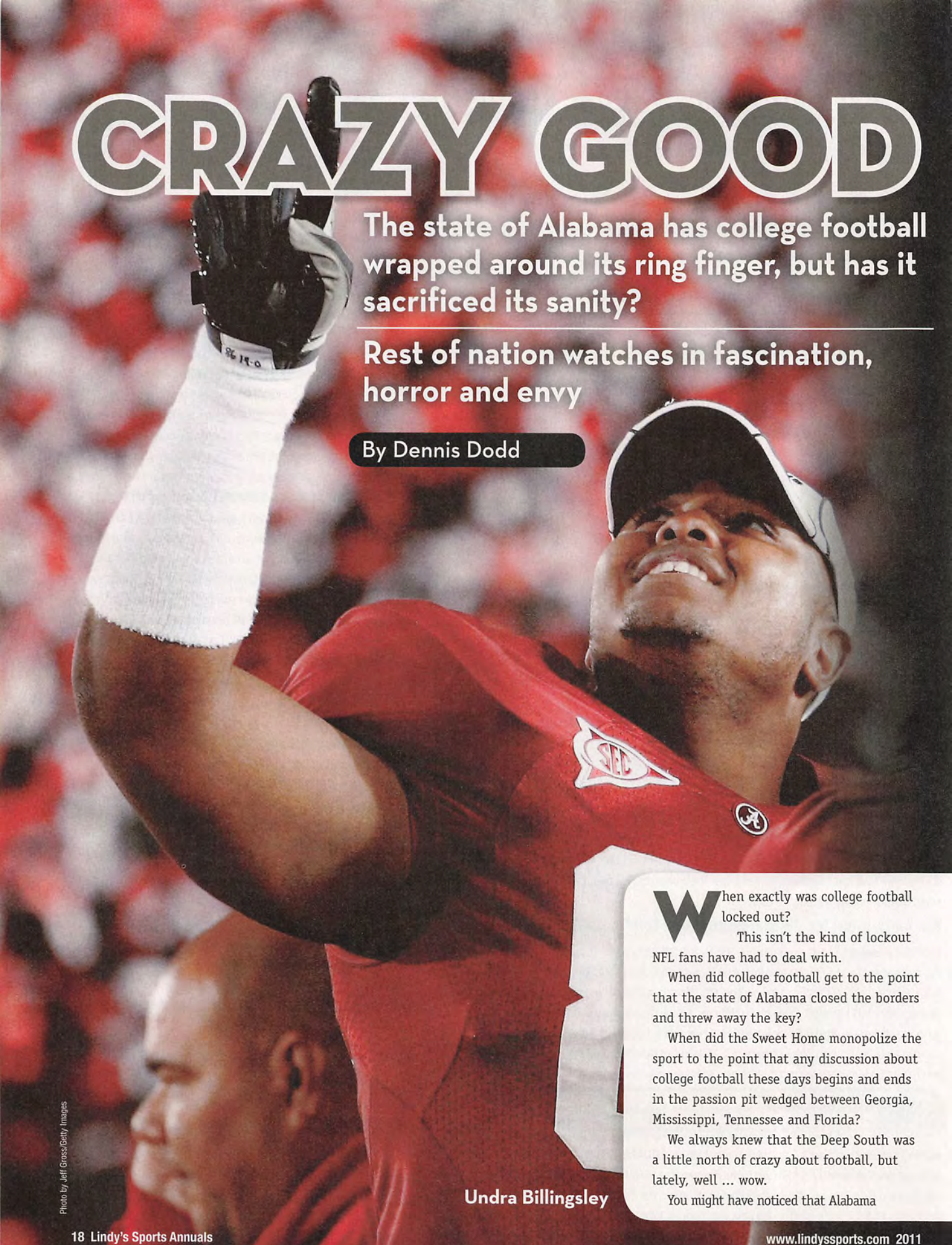

Photo by Jeff Gross/Getty Images

Undra Billingsley

When exactly was college football locked out?

This isn't the kind of lockout NFL fans have had to deal with.

When did college football get to the point that the state of Alabama closed the borders and threw away the key?

When did the Sweet Home monopolize the sport to the point that any discussion about college football these days begins and ends in the passion pit wedged between Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida?

We always knew that the Deep South was a little north of crazy about football, but lately, well ... wow.

You might have noticed that Alabama

Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

Nick Fairley

and Auburn have won the past two national championships. That had been achieved by different schools in the same state consecutively exactly once before in AP poll history.

Those schools also have produced the past two Heisman winners. Mark Ingram was Alabama's first winner in 2009. Auburn's Cam Newton dominated the race, and eventually the award, last season. For only the third time, players from different schools in the same state won consecutive Heismans.

A lot of games and hardware have been won lately, sure, but sometimes at the expense of sanity, decorum and dignity.

It used to be you had to be dead — or at least very retired — to get your own statue. But in the same April 2011 week, the University of Alabama dedicated a nine-foot bronze statue to its coach who had yet to enter his fifth season.

Not to be outdone, Auburn promised its own series of statues celebrating its three Heisman Trophy winners. All three — Pat Sullivan, Bo Jackson and Newton — are very much above ground.

The most recent Heisman winner was, as of spring, the subject of an NCAA investigation.

As the programs have become more equal on the field, something close to war broke out off of it. A nut-job Alabama fan allegedly poisoned a couple of 130-year old oak trees on the Auburn campus — the ones known for holding hundreds of rolls of toilet paper on Toomer's Corner after Tiger wins.

So seldom have the two schools been this nationally prominent together.

Maybe it's just us finally paying full attention.

Or maybe it really has never been this crazy.

"It's a good thing," Clay Travis tweeted, "Auburn and Alabama fans don't have nuclear weapons."

Travis is your average SEC fanatic — fanatics can be "average," yes? — and also an accomplished author and sportswriter who hosts a sports talk radio show in Knoxville. Naturally, that tweet merited a follow-up phone call to confirm that fear of nuclear capability.

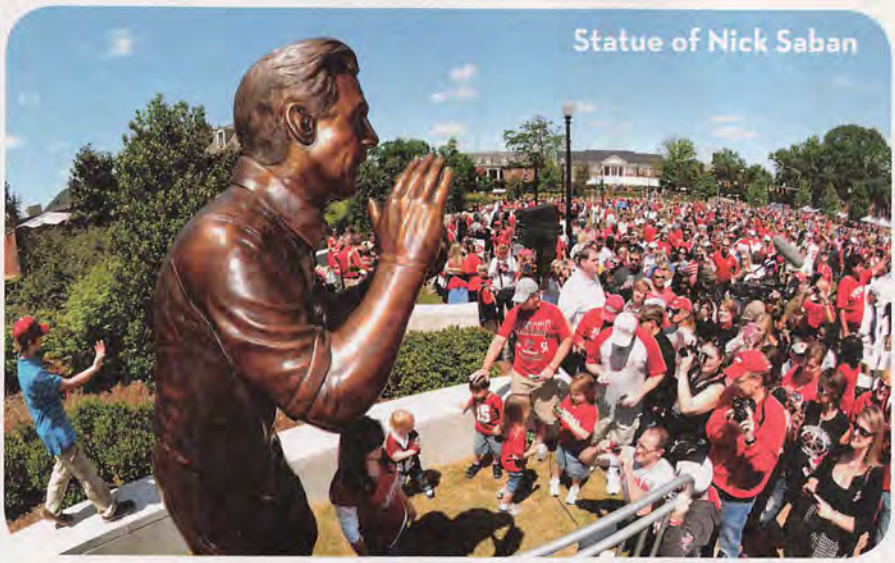
Statue of Nick Saban

Photo by Kelly Lambert-US PRESSWIRE

Cam Newton

Photo by RD Moore

"I'm serious about that," he said.

FOR BETTER *AND* WORSE

Start with this: For the past two seasons, the state's been better than everyone else at football.

Gene Chizik was the controversial choice to replace Auburn's Tommy Tuberville in 2009. Controversial because he was coming off a 2-10 season at Iowa State. Chizik stabilized things with an 8-5 debut, using Alabama as the standard when he was hired.

Chizik brought in Trooper Taylor, noted sideline towel waver and, more importantly, veteran SEC recruiter. Chizik also convinced mad scientist Gus Malzahn to sign on as offensive coordinator.

By 2009, though, Nick Saban already had become the high priest of T-Town just by being Nick Saban, running his program like those top-secret NFL equivalents.

There is the "one voice" philosophy where only the head coach speaks for the program most of the time. The man is known for his defenses, which come from every angle. That defensive grit was summarized by one play in the 2010 BCS title game where defensive end Marcell Dareus took out Texas quarterback Colt McCoy on the game's fifth play.

Alabama won by 16.

In the eyes of Tide fans, the 5-8 Saban earned that nine-foot statue when he won Alabama's 13th national championship. Chizik then matched his rival, becoming the fifth coach since 2000 to win a national title within his first two seasons at a school. He somehow remains statue-less ... but, hey, the season doesn't start until September.

But after a season for the ages, Chizik found himself almost apologizing. Reasonable folks are still asking if the title was legit. As of late April, Auburn was the subject of at least three NCAA investigations.

The most famous probe had to do with Newton. A year after Tim Tebow had left the game, college football found another player worthy of the best-ever label.

But it wasn't that easy ...

Newton was declared ineligible for a day during the week of the Iron Bowl. That was before the NCAA determined the nation's best player was eligible basically because there was no bylaw to govern the fact that his father had solicited six figures from Mississippi State. A national debate sprang from there as an SEC title, the Heisman and a national championship followed.

"Auburn," the Birmingham News proclaimed, "is challenging for the worst offseason ever by a national champion."

"I don't feel like we have to defend our honor at all," Chizik said. "A lot of circumstances that happened over the last five or six months we had no control over because we weren't involved in any of it. We feel comfortable when we go to bed at night."

Elsewhere in this state, they sleep with one eye open. For better AND worse, the center of the college football now rests in Alabama until further notice.

CRAZIES RUNNING THE ASYLUM

As the parties move tentatively toward another fall in the South, the mortal consequences of the rivalry must be considered.

It was 62-year-old Harvey Updyke who allegedly poisoned those Toomer's Corner trees a few days before Auburn beat Oregon to win its second national championship. Then he went on national radio basically confessing to the crime, with his lawyer providing color commentary during what has become the daily clearinghouse for everything football in the Deep South — The Paul Finebaum Show.

"I don't want to go to my grave saying, 'Harvey the tree-poisoner,'" Updyke told Finebaum on the air. "I've done a lot of good things. That wasn't one of them. I would've been remembered as a great father, great grandfather."

Compelling words from a man who named one of his children "Crimson Tyde."

Even for those not immersed in the culture, after listening to such surreality, you don't know whether to laugh, cry or go eat bar-b-que.

"There is an unholy alliance," Travis said.

"The rivalry has gotten taken over by people who don't have an affiliation with either university. There are the people who went there, and the high school dropouts where this is 95 percent of their self esteem. There are so many brilliant SEC football fans. They get typecast by the crazies."

WHO'S GOING TO STOP THE STATE?

The football greatness will not soon end.

Auburn has some rebuilding to do, but Malzahn has established himself as one of the best. There is a reason he turned down a reportedly lucrative offer from Vanderbilt. The right head coaching job can wait. Malzahn is among the nation's highest-paid assistants after winning the Frank Broyles Award as Assistant Coach of the Year.

While the search for Newton's replacement continues, sophomore tailback Michael Dyer

Photo by RD Moore

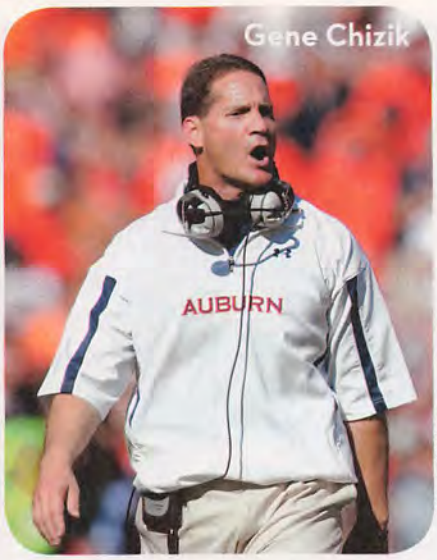

Photo by RD Moore

— who broke Bo Jackson's school freshman rushing record — should be this season's go-to guy for the Tigers.

Alabama has preseason No. 1 expectations. The defense is back to the national-championship level of 2009, and tailback Trent Richardson is ready to make his own Heisman run after the departure of Ingram.

What does that mean for everybody else?

More of the same, most likely, with everyone looking up at the conference down South. You've probably noticed that Alabama and Auburn are part of five consecutive SEC national titles won by four different schools.

Depth is not an issue.

LSU won 11 games in an "off" year. Florida stuck it in Texas' eye, sparing no expense in replacing Urban Meyer with Horns' coach-in-waiting Will Muschamp. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis joined him, coming back to college to become the highest-paid assistant in Florida history. Steve Spurrier, now 66, oversees the defending SEC East champs at South Carolina.

Meanwhile ...

We're wondering when L.A. football is going to matter again. USC and UCLA finished below .500 combined (12-13) in 2010. That hadn't happened since 2000. USC is working its way out of a crippling NCAA probation. Depth remains an issue and will for some time thanks to scholarship limits. Rick Neuheisel simply hasn't done the job at UCLA, and the Bruins have become what you absolutely cannot be in Los Angeles: Boring.

Texas is rebuilding in the scaled-down Big 12, while Oklahoma, winner of seven conference titles under Bob Stoops, looks to be ready to dominate the league. Again.

The Big Ten's best team, Ohio State, dealt in the offseason with the ethical issues of coach Jim Tressel. The Buckeyes will be without Tressel and five key players for the first five games of the season, perhaps dooming a national title run.

CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

It is inevitable, then, that the NCAA tour bus also circles back through Alabama where the reward has outweighed the risk in seasons past. Auburn is tied for third all-time with seven major infractions cases. Alabama leads Division I-A since 1995 with four.

"It's insane down there right now," Travis said. "It's kind of the dark side of the growth of college athletics. The interest level has never been higher, but the danger level has never been higher."

Sadly, violence seems to be the next logical development, mostly because it has happened in the past.

In 1974, a woman *shot and killed a man* in Chattanooga, Tenn., following an argument over an Iron Bowl field goal.

In 2005, a cage fighter with Alabama leanings rolled by an Auburn frat the night before the Iron Bowl and yelled "Roll Tide." He was accused of inciting a riot.

The examples don't matter much now that dread is back in the air. In the immediate aftermath of the vandalism against Auburn there were cops guarding Bear Bryant's grave. There are existing surveillance cameras trained on 'Bama's "Walk of Champions," home to Saban's statute and those of four other national championship coaches.

A funny thing happened, though, on the way to Alabama Armageddon. On some level, the two fan bases became ... closer.

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Photo by Mike Haskey/Columbus Ledger-Enquirer/MCT via Getty Images

"I was mortified to be candid with you," said Gina Smith, a member of Tide For Toomer's, a grassroots organization of Alabama grads who reached out to Auburn after the poisoning. "I think there is a silent majority of fans at both schools who are able to keep this rivalry in perspective. This was absolutely taking it too far."

Shortly after the poisoning, Tide For Toomer's donated $50,000 to Auburn. The money was applied to the landscaping work needed to attempt to save the trees.

"Who kills trees, especially those two trees?" said Scott Enebak, a professor in Auburn's School of Forestry and Wildlife sciences. "Someone who really wasn't thinking right, I guess. He hit the Auburn fans where it would hurt the most."

Just four years earlier, Auburn had completed its sixth consecutive Iron Bowl win against Alabama. Two years after that, Saban and Alabama broke through for the school's first title in 17 years.

With the addition of Newton, little brother then won it all for the first time since 1957. Along the way, Auburn's Newton-led rally from a 24-0 deficit *in Tuscaloosa* to win the 2010 Iron Bowl is now burned into Bama's senses like an embarrassing tattoo every Tide fan woke up with.

"It was a terrible feeling," said Alabama offensive lineman Barrett Jones, "a terrible feeling that we didn't reach our potential, most of all. It was good that it left a bad taste in our mouth. It's motivation for next season."

Yes, it can be argued that Auburn-Alabama relations have never been more strained. That's part of the problem. The arguments never stop. Alabama can't stand Auburn, and Auburn, it seems, can't stand success.

It had taken about half as long for Saban to get his own statue at Alabama (16 months), as it did for him to win the title (in his third season at the school). So they cried — yes, there were actual tears from fans — as the Saban statue was unveiled.

Now it seems as if 'Bama is overdue for another national championship. That's the expectation every year.

"It shows that deep down South we've got something that's really great," Alabama receiver Brandon Gibson said.

Or something terribly scary, undignified and strange.

Whatever pleases Alabama, grinds Auburn and vice versa. It shows in both coaches who stiffen when the accomplishments of the other are brought up.

"I feel like we're blessed to be a part of great football in this state," Chizik said.

"It just means there's two really good programs here," Saban added.

The Sweet Home isn't sharing anytime soon.

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSSports.com covering national college football.

CHEATERS NEVER PROSPER?

NCAA PRESIDENT MUST MAKE TOUGHER STAND

Mark Emmert

Photo by Nick Laham/Getty Images

It was suggested to NCAA president Mark Emmert during the offseason that this might be some sort of tipping point in the history of cheating.

More than one observer had concluded that college athletics has never been dirtier. The week Emmert was approached, HBO had just televised interviews with four former Auburn players who said they had taken cash from boosters and/or coaches.

Already in the NCAA investigative pipeline were unethical conduct cases involving Jim Tressel and former Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl. This year's Final Four bracket could have been divided up between the White Hats (VCU and Butler) and Black Hats (UConn and Kentucky).

Both Jim Calhoun and John Calipari had NCAA Tournament appearances vacated in THE SAME YEAR (1996) ... and Calhoun will be suspended for three games next season.

Didn't it bother Emmert that both teams in the BCS title game — Oregon *AND* Auburn — were under NCAA investigation during the offseason?

"There is nothing to indicate that's anything other than happenstance," said Emmert, the former LSU and Washington CEO who has been on the job less than a year.

Happenstance? And we had such high hopes for you, Mark.

No, what has occurred lately is not because of some random cosmic convergence. It is proof again that until risk outweighs reward, cheaters will prosper. And there are plenty of cheaters lately. A championship gained by any means is still a championship, it seems.

USC fans think any less of the 2004 title that was vacated by the Football Writers Association of America? That same title was being reviewed for potential revocation by BCS commissioners in the spring. The Cam Newton situation was so unique that the NCAA couldn't find a bylaw to fit what his father had done — reportedly solicit six figures in exchange for Cam's services from Mississippi State.

Being the NCAA president has little official power except to use his bully pulpit and, to be fair, Emmert's being on the job less than a year is still a valid excuse. The man inherited a lot of sludge. But we need him, we need *someone*, to put things right.

"It's absolutely critical that we get our arms around the integrity issues rapidly," Emmert said.

Some of it isn't even the NCAA's fault. The public doesn't realize that the enforcement department made up of approximately 45 investigators, can't possibly keep up with the workload. Without direct help from the NFL and NFPA, the sleazy agent issue may be out of control. Those agent runners aren't going away for the same reason the guy in the nosebleed section is willing to pay three figures for a scalped ticket on Saturdays.

Money drives everything.

"You've got to make sure you're conducting enforcement in a way that provides some sort of constructive fear and a probability of being caught," Emmert said.

But how? Until that risk outweighs the reward, it seems that nothing will change. Those suspensions obviously haven't shamed Calhoun and Tressel. The work on closing the loophole that allowed Newton to play — and win the SEC, the Heisman and national championship — was still in the works late in the spring.

Third parties are an emerging threat to take over football. Basketball, it should be noted, already is a lost cause in that respect, perhaps making it time to drop that death penalty A-bomb once again.

In January, Emmert himself felt threatened enough by angry Kentucky fans to use bodyguards during the annual NCAA convention. Those fans felt justified making death threats because recruit Enes Kanter had been declared permanently ineligible.

"I really can't quote them without having them bleeped out," Emmert said.

The Fiesta Bowl's own in-house report peeled back the layers on years of blatant financial corruption.

"Utterly unacceptable," Emmert said.

This is not his mess — not all of it, at least — yet.

But before anything changes, the attitude of the NCAA president has to be adjusted.

This is not happenstance.

PRESSING 'PAUSE'

But Urban Meyer, College Football's Top Free Agent in 2011, won't be idle

By Dennis Dodd

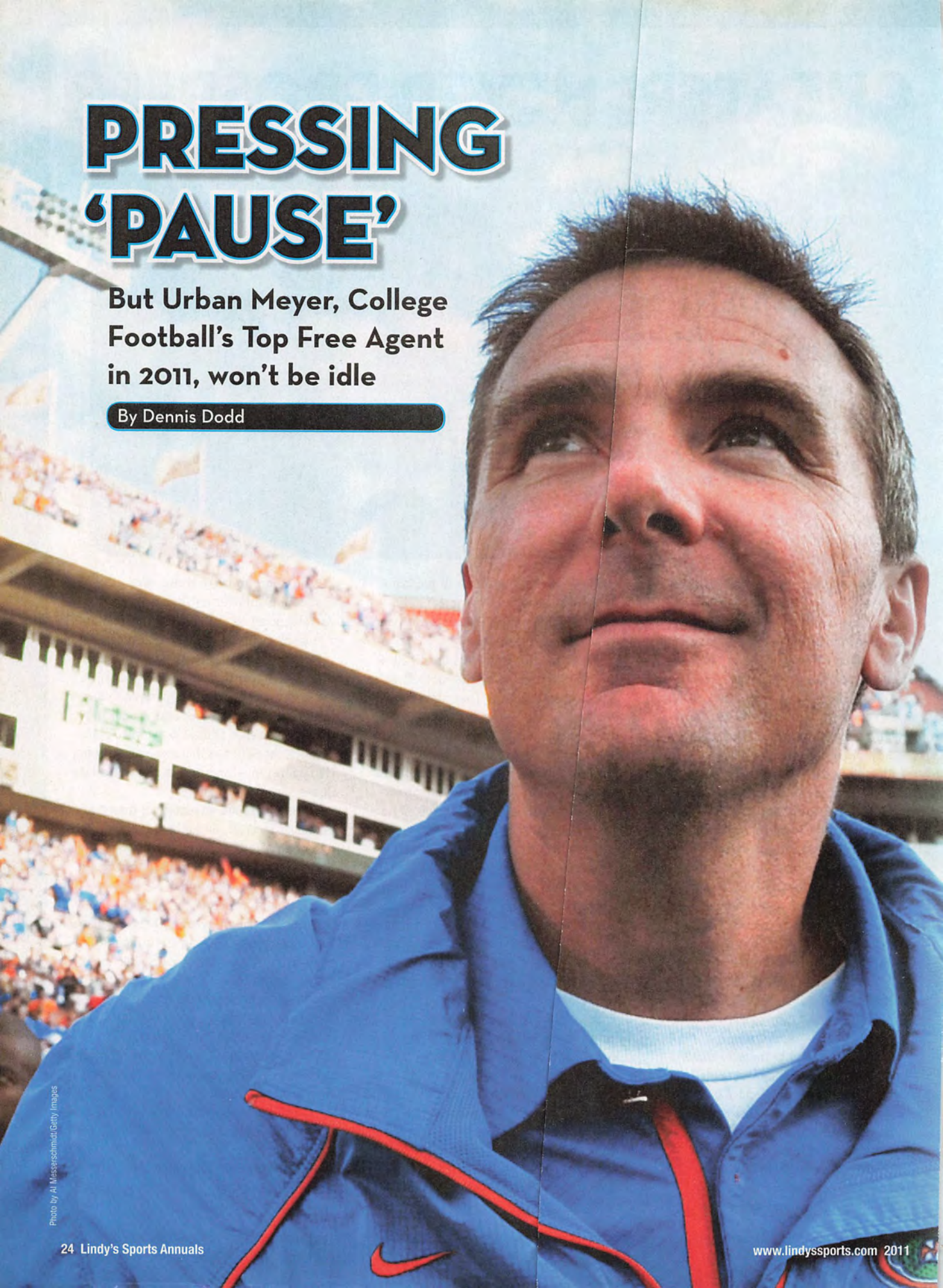

Photo by Al Messerschmidt/Getty Images

He's coming back. You know that. Heck, Urban Meyer is almost screaming it.

"I won't tell you that you won't see him coaching again because I think someday he will," said one of Urb's best friends, Utah coach Kyle Whittingham. "He's too good a coach not to."

So that's not the issue. As Meyer takes this season "off" — at least at last notice — we're all wondering how long it will take him to get back to coaching. And with whom. Notre Dame? Ohio State? Those are good places to start the discussion if, ahem, those jobs ever open.

In case you missed it, Meyer left Florida for the second time in less than a year in early December. This time the resignation stuck, at least so far. Meyer, 46, cited health reasons. There is no reason to doubt him, but you have to take the guy for what he is — a ball coach sometimes as contradictory off the field as he is brilliant on it.

The man who once berated a reporter at practice is now a member of that same media horde. You'll get your fill of him this fall as an ESPN college football analyst.

Isn't that the place where all coaches-in-waiting go to keep their name out there? Yes, but first there is a legacy to address.

In the prime of his career, Meyer left behind a couple of national championships and a 104-23 record in 10 years as a head coach. He's enriched every place he's been.

In his two seasons, Bowling Green went 17-6. Meyer set the stage for his replacement Gregg Brandon to win the MAC West in 2003. Utah might not be in the Pac-12 had Meyer not taken a sleepy Mountain West program and made it the original BCS buster in 2004.

"It started with his first team meeting," said Morgan Scalley, Utah's safeties coach and recruiting coordinator.

Back then, Scalley was a wide-eyed, hard-hitting defensive back at Utah wondering about the new guy. Meyer had sorted through four or five offers to leave Bowling Green but settled on Utah because of the possibilities.

Facilities, following and skiing. His wife, Shelley, liked that.

Scalley and his teammates were told in that first meeting with the new coach that there were only about eight teams in the country that did everything right — special teams, offense, defense, offseason program.

"We're going to be one of those eight teams," Meyer said.

Upon Meyer's departure for Florida, the Utes had won 23 of 25 games in two years and established themselves as a Top 25 program.

"I loved it. I loved his attitude. I loved his confidence," Scalley said. "At the time you're thinking to yourself, 'This is a team that just went 5-6 (in 2002), wasn't going to a bowl game.' At the same time, I loved the energy, I loved the passion."

The journey from there to the Pac-12 has been — in college football terms — a mere shotgun snap. It's not just a new conference for Utah, but a new era and arguably the biggest moment in the university's 160-year history.

In his "in between" period, Meyer also has become something of an NCAA watchdog. During a February radio interview, he dropped this bomb:

"What I've seen the last five years is a complete turn in the integrity of the college coaching profession."

And he means it. If the NCAA hasn't talked to him already, it should. Meyer is willing to cooperate. This is a guy who operated inside the SEC recruiting vortex. This is a guy who was criticized, by some, after Cam Newton "got away."

Meyer can't say it for the record, but there were issues that caused Newton to leave for Auburn. The alleged stolen laptop. The reported academic fraud that had Newton headed for the door when a Florida academic committee was about to come after him.

How much unethical conduct did Meyer run into while he was coaching?

"Things would come to light and the protocol was to turn them in to the compliance office," Meyer said.

"I felt a responsibility to my staff. Violations would occur and our staff would not hear the result or a punishment. The school who committed the violation would be allowed to continue to recruit and sign the player. That did not make sense.

"What happens is there's 10 percent, 20 percent of things that are done the wrong way," he added. "The majority are still done the right way. I was outspoken about it. I was very concerned about it. I'm still concerned."

So what's it like being a whistle blower outside of the ropes? Frankly, Meyer doesn't care. What we're seeing is that accountability he instilled at Utah and Florida. It's that drive that will make him desirable when he decides to get out from behind the microphone.

It's not too crass to suggest that Meyer could be back in the game, quickly.

He has a history in South Bend. Meyer, a former Irish assistant, has repeatedly referred to Notre Dame as his "dream job." It was ND that was ready to throw a lot of bank at Meyer before Florida landed first in Salt Lake City after the 2004 season.

Of course, Notre Dame might already have the right man in second-year coach Brian Kelly.

Meanwhile, Ohio State may take care of itself. Jim Tressel, with school lawyers in tow, has a mid-August meeting with the NCAA infractions committee. Tressel already is suspended for the first five games of this season for allegedly hiding those emails from his bosses. If the NCAA brings the wood in penalizing the program, how much worth will there be in keeping Tressel long-term?

Meyer already is tanned, rested and ready. Reducing the stress has already been a health enhancer.

He'll be back coaching because coaches are addicts, all of them. Bobby Bowden kept chasing one more title before Florida State unceremoniously kicked him out. Chris Ault has been coach at Nevada *three* times. He reached his ultimate high in 2010, leading the Wolf Pack to 13 wins, including an upset victory over Boise State and the school's first Top 25 ranking since the 1940s.

The addiction can be a killer. There are a handful of places in the country where a coach is pretty much guaranteed to win. Florida and Texas are two of them. Last season those schools became the biggest disappointments in college football.

Mack Brown retooled his staff at Texas. Meyer is retooling his life.

For that, we should admire him until it's time for him to get back inside the ropes.

COACHING FREE AGENTS

Will these guys be back on the sideline in 2012?

Name	Last job	Career record
Mike Bellotti	Oregon	116-55
Tommy Bowden	Clemson	90-49
Mike Leach	Texas Tech	84-43
Mark Mangino	Kansas	50-48
Rich Rodriguez	Michigan	118-76

Mike Bellotti

Photo by Donald Miralle/Getty Images

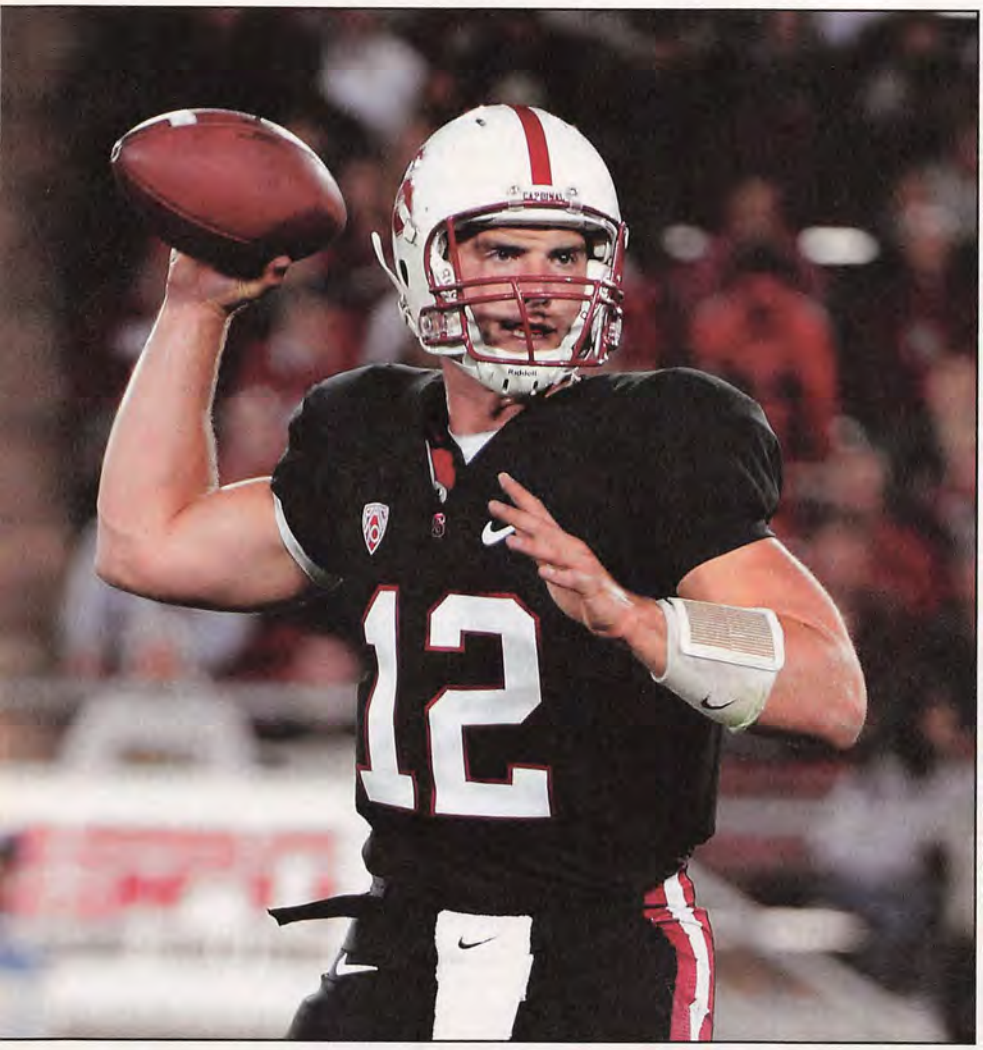

Photo by Kyle Terada-US PRESSWIRE

Poise, leadership, arm, smarts: It's all Luck

By Jon Wilner

Rob Rang has been in the football scouting business for many years, and for much of that time LaDainian Tomlinson and Carson Palmer occupied the top of his all-time list of top prospects.

Then Ndamukong Suh came along and forced Rang to reshuffle his pantheon.

Then Rang took a hard look at Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck — studied film, watched him in person, studied more film — and declared Luck the best player he had scouted.

Ever.

"You like the size and the arm strength and the accuracy; all those things are Pro Bowl caliber," said Rang, who works for CBSSports.com.

"He has all the physical attributes, but a lot of quarterbacks over the years have had a rare blend of physical attributes. I've never seen a quarterback with the mental and physical attributes at his capacity."

That combination — in addition to Luck's 20-5 record as a starter — makes him the clear choice as *Lindy's* 2011 preseason Offensive Player of the Year.

The 6-4, 235-pound junior, who finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting and led Stanford to an Orange Bowl victory, would have been the top pick in the NFL Draft in April. Instead, he returned for his junior season to pursue the national championship and his undergraduate degree.

As for any second guessing, Luck has none.

"I'm very happy," he said.

Stanford's opponents are not.

Nor are teams with an eye on the national title ... or players with designs on the Heisman..

Nor, for that matter, are the Carolina Panthers, who owned the No. 1 pick but were denied the chance to take the best quarterback prospect to enter the draft in years.

"Seeing him live, I'm blown away," NFL analyst Ron Jaworski said after watching Luck during an Orange Bowl workout.

"He looks, acts and carries himself like an NFL quarterback. He exudes leadership. He's NFL-ready. He's as sound a quarterback as anyone I've seen. He throws a tight spiral, has flawless mechanics and an array of throws."

Luck even has NFL genes. His father, Oliver, was a reserve quarterback for the Houston Oilers in the mid-1980s. Oliver taught his son the game at an early age. In addition to Luck's strong arm, he showed an instant aptitude for the game.

"He knows where everybody is; he knows about timing; he knows about anticipation," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said. "With Oliver, (Andrew) probably was a quarterback from the time he was very young, and those genes passed on very well."

Oliver was an NFL Europe executive, but the family returned to the United States and Andrew developed into a five-star prospect at Houston's Stratford High School. With scholarship offers from more than 20 colleges, he picked Stanford because of the academics and coach Jim Harbaugh's experience playing the position in the NFL.

After redshirting in his first year, Luck took command of the offense

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

in 2009 and combined with tailback Toby Gerhart to lead Stanford to eight wins.

Then Gerhart headed to the NFL and Luck blossomed into the best pro-style quarterback in the country: He had a passer rating of 170.2, enough mobility to break off two 50-yard runs and a feel for the position that left NFL scouts drooling.

"It's amazing watching him and what he's able to do before the snap," USC coach Lane Kiffin said.

"They change so many plays and protections. He's so smart and so prepared and able to run when things aren't open. The NFL scouts that come through here say his marks are off the charts and that he's an absolute no-brainer."

But a few days after leading Stanford to victory in the Orange Bowl, Luck announced he would return to Stanford — a decision that surprised the football world but not anyone inside the Cardinal program. Luck made it clear throughout the season that he enjoyed school, felt no pressure (financial or otherwise) to enter the draft and wanted his degree in architectural design.

Instantly, he became the 2012 Heisman favorite, and Stanford became a contender for the Pac-12 and national titles — even though it lost three starting offensive linemen, both starting receivers and Harbaugh.

But the transition has been smooth. First-year coach David Shaw was Stanford's offensive coordinator under Harbaugh and kept the playbook intact. New quarterbacks coach Pep Hamilton worked with the Stanford receivers last season as has a good relationship with Luck.

"They've done a great job really being on our butts about coming out every day with a purpose," Luck said. "I think I've grown a lot personally."

That's not what Stanford's opponents wanted to hear.

"We're asking Andrew to take the next step," Shaw said. "We're asking him to be the player he was last year and even more of a leader and take even more control of the offense. He's taken that responsibility and run with it."

OFFENSE

Andrew Luck

LaMichael James

Marcus Lattimore

Justin Blackmon

Ryan Broyles

Michael Egnew

FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Andrew Luck	6-4	235	Jr.	Stanford
RB	LaMichael James	5-9	185	Jr.	Oregon
RB	Marcus Lattimore	6-0	231	So.	South Carolina
WR	Justin Blackmon	6-1	211	Jr.	Oklahoma State
WR	Ryan Broyles	5-11	187	Sr.	Oklahoma
TE	Michael Egnew	6-6	240	Sr.	Missouri
C	Mike Brewster	6-5	293	Sr.	Ohio State
OL	Barrett Jones	6-5	311	Jr.	Alabama
OL	Nate Potter	6-6	300	Sr.	Boise State
OL	Matt Reynolds	6-6	322	Sr.	BYU
OL	Levy Adcock	6-6	322	Sr.	Oklahoma State
PK	Blair Walsh	5-10	185	Sr.	Georgia

SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Kellen Moore	6-0	191	Sr.	Boise State
RB	Trent Richardson	5-11	224	Jr.	Alabama
RB	Knile Davis	6-0	230	Jr.	Arkansas
WR	Alshon Jeffery	6-4	233	Jr.	South Carolina
WR	Jeff Fuller	6-4	215	Sr.	Texas A&M
TE	George Bryan	6-5	265	Sr.	NC State
C	David Molk	6-2	288	Sr.	Michigan
OL	David DeCastro	6-5	310	Jr.	Stanford
OL	Jonathan Martin	6-6	304	Jr.	Stanford
OL	Mike Adams	6-8	300	Sr.	Ohio State
OL	Kelechi Osemele	6-6	354	Sr.	Iowa State
PK	Danny Hrapmann	5-9	160	Jr.	Southern Miss

Mike Brewster

Barrett Jones

Nate Potter

Matt Reynolds

Levy Adcock

Blair Walsh

Photo by Rick Scuteri-US PRESSWIRE

ASU's Burfict is Different, but Hits Will Feel the Same

By Doug Haller

The drill was fast-paced and intense, Arizona State linebackers coach Trent Bray instructing his players: move right and left, front and back.

Still, when he had a chance, Vontaze Burfict tried to lighten the mood. "Coach Bray, can I be your Facebook friend?" Burfict asked his position coach.

"No," Bray shot back, not missing a beat.

Burfict chuckled, then took his turn, darting in all directions.

Through 15 spring practices, this brief exchange might have been the biggest Burfict-related disruption, a change from previous seasons when the junior middle linebacker occasionally delivered a late hit or shove, just to stir things up or remind everyone he was the baddest guy on the field.

By all accounts, Burfict is a different player this year.

No, he hasn't lost his intensity, and yes, he'll probably continue to earn a personal foul or two. But he's matured, dedicating himself to offseason workouts, trying his best to become a leader ... and to the rest of the Pac-12, that qualifies as a major disruption.

Put simply, this is Burfict's time, his year to trade potential for domination, which makes him *Lindy's* choice for Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

"Vontaze is the biggest leader we have on the field defensively," senior defensive tackle Bo Moos said.

"I see him as someone who really has made the transition mentally to where he needs to be to be the best in the country, because that's what he is. He's the best linebacker at this level."

Coach Dennis Erickson says Burfict, at 6-3, 253 pounds, is in the best shape of his career. He got by mostly on talent his first season, enough to become the Pac-10's Defensive Freshman of the Year. But last year, Burfict noticed talent wasn't enough, particularly during a September game at Wisconsin.

"That's when it really hit me," he said. "I was like, 'OK, I just can't rely on my talent. Sometimes I need strength to deal with these guys.'"

Each spring, Arizona State recognizes those who excel in the weight room with its Hard Hat program. Last year, the Sun Devils honored 48 players, a group that included back-ups, walk-ons and even the kicker.

Burfict wasn't among them.

"He'd work out last year, but there were days if he didn't feel like it, he wouldn't show up," Bray said.

This year, Burfict didn't miss a single session, shedding seven pounds and earning his first Hard Hat award. He also worked with cornerback Omar Bolden to bring Arizona State's linebackers and defensive backs together for a joint film session, something that hadn't happened in previous seasons.

"Maturity," Erickson said when asked about the change in Burfict.

"Teammates challenging him to be

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

what he is. Don't be somebody you're not. Be what you are, a great football player. A guy that people want to follow. So do it, and he has. I think the light came on at the end of last year."

As great as this sounds, it's simply the first step. Burfict also has to figure out how to control his emotions, an issue that has cost the Sun Devils.

In last season's loss at Oregon State, he head-butted Beavers quarterback Ryan Katz, drawing a personal foul, an act that prompted Erickson to bench him for the first quarter of the next week's game at Washington.

As the season progressed, Burfict thought officials began targeting him, just waiting for an opportunity to throw a yellow flag.

"I came up to (one official) before the game (and said), 'What' s up? I'm Vontaze. Nice to meet you,'" Burfict said. "And he was like, 'Yeah, I know about you. I'll be looking at your number the rest of the game. You better not do anything stupid.' I was like, 'Whoa, OK.'"

It's an interesting dilemma. Burfict's aggressiveness is what makes him effective — "probably the scariest player in the country," one television analyst said last season — but it's hard to turn off. And it's earned him a reputation.

"I don't think people understand sometimes what (his performance) means to a team," sophomore defensive end Junior Onyeali said. "Those big hits ... he'll make certain plays that make you just say, 'Wow,' and those kinds of things just boost up the defense's confidence."

Burfict insists he's not worried about the past. He's simply focused on his future, on getting in the best shape possible and leading a defense that should rank among the best in the Pac-12, one that could land Arizona State in a bowl game for the first time since the 2007 season.

"I've never been around a more talented linebacker," said Bray. "Physically, the things he's able to do for as big as he is, it's impressive. If he's focused and has his mind on something, there's nothing he can't accomplish."

DEFENSE

Brandon Jenkins

Quinton Coples

Devin Taylor

Jared Crick

Vontaze Burfict

Luke Kuechly

FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	Brandon Jenkins	6-3	258	Jr.	Florida State
DL	Quinton Coples	6-6	245	Sr.	North Carolina
DL	Devin Taylor	6-7	248	Jr.	South Carolina
DL	Jared Crick	6-6	285	Sr.	Nebraska
LB	Vontaze Burfict	6-3	253	Jr.	Arizona State
LB	Luke Kuechly	6-3	235	Jr.	Boston College
LB	Dont'a Hightower	6-4	260	Sr.	Alabama
DB	Cliff Harris	5-11	165	Jr.	Oregon
DB	Jayron Hosley	5-10	170	Jr.	Virginia Tech
DB	Stephon Gilmore	6-1	194	So.	South Carolina
DB	Mark Barron	6-2	218	Sr.	Alabama
P	Quinn Sharp	6-1	189	Jr.	Oklahoma State

SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	Bruce Irvin	6-3	235	Sr.	West Virginia
DL	Vinny Curry	6-5	242	Sr.	Marshall
DL	Jacquies Smith	6-4	255	Sr.	Missouri
DL	Billy Winn	6-4	295	Sr.	Boise State
LB	Travis Lewis	6-2	233	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Lavonte David	6-1	220	Sr.	Nebraska
LB	Tank Carder	6-3	237	Sr.	TCU
DB	Alfonzo Dennard	5-10	205	Sr.	Nebraska
DB	Shaun Prater	5-11	180	Sr.	Iowa
DB	Keith Tandy	5-10	198	Sr.	West Virginia
DB	Robert Lester	6-2	210	Jr.	Alabama
P	Drew Butler	6-2	203	Sr.	Georgia

Dont'a Hightower

Cliff Harris

Jayron Hosley

Stephon Gilmore

Mark Barron

Quinn Sharp

QUARTERBACKS

Boise State ready for Moore. Everybody else? Probably not.

KELLEN MOORE

Photo by Otto Kitsinger III/Getty Images

Kellen Moore's final season as the Boise State quarterback will be nothing like his first three.

New offensive coordinator. New receivers. New conference. Unprecedented hype. More critics.

And the opportunity of a lifetime, with his brother Kirby likely to serve as one of his primary receiving targets.

Of course, the unflappable Moore — a Heisman Trophy finalist in 2010 and one of the favorites in 2011 — isn't fazed.

"There's some excitement, maybe a little sense of urgency," Moore said.

Moore has built one of the most impressive resumes in college football history in the past three years, all as the Broncos' starter. He is 38-2 with a one-point loss and an overtime loss, leading the Broncos to wins in the 2010 Fiesta Bowl and 2010 MAACO Bowl Las Vegas. He has won three conference titles.

Last year, he led the nation with a pass-efficiency rating of 182.63. He needs eight wins to become the winningest quarterback in college football history.

But living up to the standard he has set will be difficult in 2011, given the wholesale changes to Moore's surroundings. Consider:

• Offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin left for Texas. Former wide receivers coach Brent Pease replaced him and will run the same scheme, but with his own spin.

• Top wideouts Titus Young and Austin Pettis were NFL Draft picks after combining for 53 touchdown catches in the past three years. Their replacements are largely unproven, with the exception of senior Tyler Shoemaker.

"We've just got to work together constantly," Moore said, "and get each other on the same page, and then everything will be just fine."

One of those receivers should mesh with Moore quickly. Kirby Moore, a sophomore, made 21 catches as a true freshman in 2009 but redshirted in 2010, when he would have been a role player in a crowded rotation.

"It'll be fun," Kellen said. "I don't think too many people get this opportunity, and we need to take advantage of it."

• The Broncos move into the Mountain West Conference this season. Utah and BYU are gone, but the Broncos still must deal with TCU — Moore hasn't thrown a touchdown pass in two previous meetings against the Horned Frogs — and Air Force.

• The college football media has celebrated Moore (6-0, 191 pounds) throughout his career. That likely will change slightly this year, as the focus shifts from his tremendous success in college to his readiness for the NFL.

"(Size) is always the topic when it comes to the numbers part of it," Pease said, "but when it comes to drafting guys, if you want a guy who's a winner, draft the winner. Don't worry about the size."

• Moore has faced lofty expectations in the past two seasons. In both cases, he played better than the year before.

But as a returning Heisman finalist, the pressure to perform at an elite level has never been greater.

And with all the changes — particularly at receiver, where he had built an almost automatic connection with Young on the deep ball and received some help from the rangy Pettis on marginal throws — the idea of matching last year's stats seems almost preposterous.

Moore completed a school-record 71.3 percent of his passes and topped 70 percent in 10 of his past 11 games.

No one expects the level-headed Moore to become stat-crazed.

Fortunately for the Broncos, there's one thing that hasn't changed this year: Moore.

"He really doesn't get too high and he doesn't get too low — ever," BSU coach Chris Petersen said. "He's just always the same. Really, if you could design a quarterback in terms of their demeanor, I think he's got exactly what you want."

— Chadd Cripe

TOP QUARTERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Andrew Luck**	Jr.	**Stanford**
	Few can understand why he came back ... college fans just happy he did.		
2.	**Kellen Moore**	Sr.	**Boise State**
	Beautiful timing and so efficient -- a passer rating of 182.63 last season.		
3.	**Landry Jones**	Jr.	**Oklahoma**
	With so many targets, he'll approach (surpass?) 4,718 yards, 38 TDs again.		
4.	**Denard Robinson**	Jr.	**Michigan**
	Needs more pocket presence in new offense, but so dang electric.		
5.	**Brandon Weeden**	Sr.	**Oklahoma State**
	27-year-old former minor-league pitcher tossed for 4,277 yards in 2010.		
6.	**Ryan Lindley**	Sr.	**San Diego State**
	Tall, pro-style passer has 9,537 career passing yards as three-year starter.		
7.	**Robert Griffin**	Jr.	**Baylor**
	Can do it all; would be Heisman candidate if he wore, say, an Auburn jersey.		
8.	**Darron Thomas**	Jr.	**Oregon**
	Hard to compare him to others, but read-option whiz perfect for Ducks.		
9.	**Dan Persa**	Sr.	**Northwestern**
	First-team All-Big Ten in 2010 despite missing final two games (Achilles').		
10.	**Case Keenum**	Sr.	**Houston**
	Back after ACL injury to resume pursuit of NCAA career passing record.		
11.	**Matt Barkley**	Jr.	**USC**
	Showed better maturity, conditioning and down-field passing in 2010.		
12.	**Nick Foles**	Sr.	**Arizona**
	Thrives in hurry-up, late-game situations and has loads of targets.		
13.	**Kirk Cousins**	Sr.	**Michigan State**
	Expected to have more freedom to turn it loose down field this season.		
14.	**Aaron Murray**	So.	**Georgia**
	Plenty of room to improve on 3,049-yard freshman season		
15.	**Terrelle Pryor**	Sr.	**Ohio State**
	Where to put a player suspended for five games? We split the difference.		
16.	**Zach Collaros**	Sr.	**Cincinnati**
	His 2,900-yard season included a 463-yard effort against USF.		
17.	**G.J. Kinne**	Sr.	**Tulsa**
	Directing a super offense that averaged 41.4 points per game last season.		
18.	**Geno Smith**	Jr.	**West Virginia**
	Big East's most efficient passer in '10 gets keys to Dana Holgorsen's attack.		
19.	**Taylor Martinez**	So.	**Nebraska**
	Potential to be so much higher, but there is still a prove-it factor at work.		
20.	**Dominique Davis**	Sr.	**East Carolina**
	Boston College transfer led C-USA in passing yards (3,967) and TDs (37).		
21.	**Danny O'Brien**	So.	**Maryland**
	Took over as starter in fourth game; ACC Rookie of the Year in 2010.		
22.	**Tyler Wilson**	Jr.	**Arkansas**
	Should put up huge numbers as he takes over for Ryan Mallett.		
23.	**E.J. Manuel**	Jr.	**Florida State**
	Already has two bowl wins to his credit as an injury replacement.		
24.	**Bryant Moniz**	Sr.	**Hawaii**
	Another prolific Hawaii quarterback: Passed for 5,040 yards last year.		
25.	**Kyle Padron**	Jr.	**SMU**
	June Jones has himself another good one; 3,828 yards, 31 TDs last year.		

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S11 OhioSt (-8½) MiamiF	36-24	W		D 4 Nebraska (+4½) Ok	20-23	W	
S18 Colo (-12½) Hawaii	31-13	W		D 5 Raiders (+13) Chargers	28-13	W	
S19 Cowboys (-7) Bears	20-27	L		D12 Cowboys (+3½) Eagles	27-30	W	
S25 ArizSt (+12½) Oregon	31-42	W		D19 Panthers (-2½) Cards	19-12	W	

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Missouri (+3) Oklahoma 35-27 **WON** ***UPSET!***

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RUNNING BACKS

Lattimore has the legs, and head, for success

MARCUS LATTIMORE

Photo by Wesley Hitt/Getty Images

There will be no repeats of last year's Georgia game for Marcus Lattimore. That game was played Sept. 11 in Williams-Brice Stadium. It was Lattimore's first Southeastern Conference game and not even his own coaches — much less the Bulldogs or the rest of the SEC — knew exactly what South Carolina had.

"The Georgia game is when we realized this guy could really play," Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier said.

"I think it was the first 3rd-and-11, and we handed off on the draw play to him and he broke a couple tackles, made about 15 yards. We said, 'Well, let's give it to him again and see what happens.'

"He breaks about two tackles at the line of scrimmage, makes about eight yards. (We're thinking), 'This ain't bad here.'"

When the day was done, Lattimore had carried 37 times for 182 yards, lifting the Gamecocks past Georgia. When the season was done, Lattimore had 1,197 yards on 249 carries and helped carry South Carolina to the SEC East championship, just its second conference title of any kind in more than 100 years of football.

Lattimore won't sneak up on anyone this year.

He went on to have two more 180-plus yard games in 2010, posting the third-best rushing season in school history and setting the school single-season scoring record with 17 touchdowns. While doing that, he fumbled only once, on a play against Florida State in which he was knocked unconscious.

He was the consensus national Freshman of the Year and heads into the 2011 season with bigger goals.

"I want to be the best running back in the country," Lattimore said. "To do that, I just have to work hard and keep working hard."

He began that work as soon as the season ended. Lattimore was chosen by his teammates as one of 12 captains for the team's winter workouts; he led his team to the session's title.

"Marcus Lattimore is one of our best leaders, if not the best," strength coach Craig Fitzgerald said. "Nobody has been better than him. He's our best worker, best player, certainly the best combination of the two."

The weight room work was evident when the 6-foot Lattimore showed up for spring practice weighing 233 pounds, up more than 15 pounds from his freshman weight. The bulk has a purpose, Lattimore said, which is to combat the only chink in his armor — durability.

Two of the Gamecocks' five losses last year came when Lattimore was on the bench — due to an ankle injury in the second half of the Kentucky game and a concussion against Florida State in the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

Lattimore's rushing attempts were the third-highest single-season total in South Carolina history, and he came to school with a lot of mileage already on his legs. He carried the ball 849 times in his final three seasons at Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C., where he was considered the nation's best running back by at least one recruiting service.

"I knew I had to put on some pounds because of the carries I get," he said. "I just want to last the whole season. To do that, I had to get bigger, I had to get faster and I had to get stronger. ...

"I have a big role this year as a leader, and I am just trying to do the right things so the whole team will do the right things because it's contagious."

Talking about doing the right thing, Lattimore is more than the Gamecocks' bell cow on the field. He's also one of their most active players off the field as a regular speaker at local churches.

Earlier this year, Lattimore visited a fellow student who was in a coma at a Columbia hospital after being hit by a car. None of the team's coaches or support personnel, who try to limit his off-field appearances due to the demands on his time, knew he made the trip until informed by a reporter.

"The family was just so grateful for me to come," Lattimore said. "They said, 'You just don't know how much it means to him.' It just feels good to me knowing I have that kind of impact."

— Josh Kendall

TOP RUNNING BACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**LaMichael James**	Jr.	**Oregon**
	No. 1 rusher in 2010 (1,731 yards); nine career games of 150-plus yards.		
2.	**Marcus Lattimore**	So.	**South Carolina**
	We'll see many more workhorse efforts like vs. Florida, Georgia last year.		
3.	**Trent Richardson**	Jr.	**Alabama**
	Could threaten for Alabama's second Heisman in three seasons.		
4.	**Knile Davis**	Jr.	**Arkansas**
	First-team All-SEC last season, rushing for 1,322 yards and 13 TDs.		
5.	**Michael Dyer**	So.	**Auburn**
	More freshman yards than Bo - and one title-game run for the ages.		
6.	**Edwin Baker**	Jr.	**Michigan State**
	Stated goal: Be second Spartan (Lorenzo White) to get 2,000 in a season.		
7.	**Cyrus Gray**	Sr.	**Texas A&M**
	Enters this season with seven consecutive 100-yard games.		
8.	**Montel Harris**	Sr.	**Boston College**
	At least 100 yards in 13 of past 16 games in which he's played.		
9.	**Chris Polk**	Jr.	**Washington**
	With new QB, Huskies need a workhorse; he's the right man for the job.		
10.	**Ronnie Hillman**	So.	**San Diego State**
	Nation's leading freshman rusher last season with 1,532 yards.		
11.	**Rex Burkhead**	Jr.	**Nebraska**
	Takes over job full time and should pop well past 1,000 yards this year.		
12.	**Montee Ball**	Jr.	**Wisconsin**
	Can't really differentiate between him and James White; both are super.		
13.	**James White**	So.	**Wisconsin**
	Can't really differentiate between him and Montee Ball; both are super.		
14.	**Doug Martin**	Sr.	**Boise State**
	Underrated running and pass-catching complement to QB Kellen Moore.		
15.	**Andre Ellington**	Jr.	**Clemson**
	After toe surgery and with the full-time job, he's set for big 2011 season.		
16.	**Bobby Rainey**	Sr.	**Western Kentucky**
	Hilltoppers will wear him out: 340 carries for 1,711 yards last year.		
17.	**Stepfan Taylor**	Jr.	**Stanford**
	His 1,137-yard season went a long way to easing loss of Toby Gerhart.		
18.	**Lance Dunbar**	Sr.	**North Texas**
	Legit? Had 117 yards vs. Clemson, 270 (!) vs. Kansas State last season.		
19.	**Rodney Stewart**	Sr.	**Colorado**
	If the Buffs can count on anything, it's Stewart going for 1,000 yards.		
20.	**Ed Wesley**	Jr.	**TCU**
	Sizzled early last season before being slowed by injuries.		
21.	**Chris Rainey**	Jr.	**Florida**
	He and Jeff Demps give OC Charlie Weis speed in the running game.		
22.	**Vick Ballard**	Sr.	**Mississippi State**
	Set school record last season with 19 rushing touchdowns.		
23.	**Isaiah Pead**	Sr.	**Cincinnati**
	Nice day against Oklahoma last season: 169 yards on 21 carries.		
24.	**Robbie Rouse**	Jr.	**Fresno State**
	Had back-to-back games last season with more than 200 yards.		
25.	**Brandon Bolden**	Sr.	**Ole Miss**
	Led Ole Miss in rushing (976 yards) and receptions (32) last season.		

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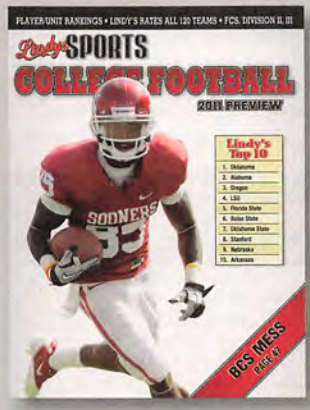
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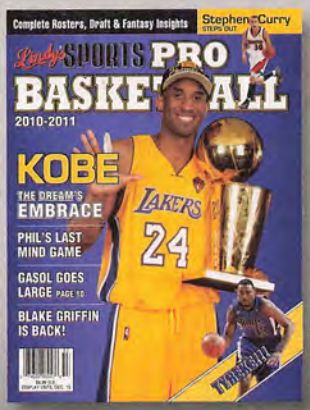

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SIGNATURE

PLAYER RATINGS

RECEIVERS

Effort and opportunity turn Blackmon into superstar

JUSTIN BLACKMON

Photo by John Williamson

Oklahoma State has had its share of sudden-impact players in the past, with Barry Sanders and Dez Bryant rising from the depth chart and setting the college football world on fire.

But even the Cowboys had never had anything like Justin Blackmon. A prideful and hard-working sophomore in a group of potential contributors, Blackmon rose so fast, so high and so far in 2010, he might as well have had flubber on his feet and stick-um on his hands.

In his first year as a starting wide receiver, Blackmon caught 111 passes for 1,782 yards and 20 touchdowns, all school records. He set an NCAA record with 13 games of at least 100 yards and one touchdown. He was a unanimous All-American, the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year and the Biletnikoff Award winner.

All this after a redshirt freshman season in which he made a mere 20 catches for 260 yards and two touchdowns.

How, then, did Blackmon come out of nowhere?

"I would say just working hard in the offseason, just trying to get better, trying to push myself to be the best I can be," he said.

Blackmon's success wasn't some product of a gimmick offense. He averaged 148.5 yards per game, 16.1 yards per catch and 32 yards per touchdown, scoring five times from 60 yards or more. He also scored on a blocked punt and a 69-yard run.

Maybe the secret to Blackmon's sudden success was that his quarterback, Brandon Weeden, was right there with him.

The 27-year-old Weeden's only previous experience prior to his breakout 2010 was as a minor league pitcher and a backup quarterback who rallied the Cowboys to victory with two strong quarters of relief work in 2009.

Weeden's career stats going into last fall were meager: in four games, he completed 16 of 27 passes for 256 yards, with four touchdowns and an interception. Last season, he set OSU records for attempts, completions, yards, touchdowns and total offense.

"There's a lot of stuff we did learn and kind of threw up on the run," Blackmon said, "but I think this spring and this next year coming up, I think we'll be able to get a little bit better at things."

Blackmon spurned the NFL draft to return to Stillwater for his junior season. He knows he can get better. Identifying exactly how he can get better was the challenge for the Oklahoma State coaching staff in the offseason.

New offensive coordinator Todd Monken, who coached OSU All-American Rashaun Woods from 2002-04, said Blackmon realized what needed to be done.

"He went from playing a little bit to being the Biletnikoff winner," Monken said. "He did that by being a big, powerful man with great hands. Now, he can really change himself as a route-runner."

Blackmon's finest moment of 2010 may have been his "worst" game — 105 yards and a touchdown on eight catches. He did that in the season finale against rival Oklahoma despite a severe ankle sprain. He hopped to the sideline on one leg after almost every catch but nearly rallied the Cowboys with a big fourth quarter.

It was a fitting finish to an unforgettable season. Blackmon started the year unknown, but by the end, he was the team's go-to guy, the Cowboys' best chance at victory.

"It was just a time where we had just had the incident with Dez and everything (Bryant's NCAA suspension in 2009), so we were searching for somebody to take that lead role," Blackmon said. "The opportunity was there, and if we just worked hard in the spring, it would happen.

"I knew if I put my mind to it, it was possible it could happen, and that's just what I strived to do."

— John Hoover

TOP WIDE RECEIVERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Justin Blackmon**	Jr.	**Oklahoma State**
	Biletnikoff winner had 100 yards in all 12 games he played in last season.		
2.	**Ryan Broyles**	Sr.	**Oklahoma**
	Surprised most by coming back after 131 catches for 1,622 yards, 14 TDs.		
3.	**Alshon Jeffery**	Jr.	**South Carolina**
	Great size makes him easy target down field; 17.2 yards per catch in '10.		
4.	**Jeff Fuller**	Sr.	**Texas A&M**
	At 6-4, with good body control, can't be stopped on the fade route.		
5.	**Juron Criner**	Sr.	**Arizona**
	Had 82 catches for 1,233 yards, 11 TDs, while often playing hurt.		
6.	**Kendall Wright**	Sr.	**Baylor**
	Career numbers for athletic playmaker: 194 catches, 2,341 yards, 16 TDs.		
7.	**Greg Childs**	Sr.	**Arkansas**
	Will be back to big-play form after knee injury cut short 2010 season.		
8.	**Jermaine Kearse**	Sr.	**Washington**
	Hauled in 20 touchdown receptions in the past two seasons.		
9.	**Patrick Edwards**	Sr.	**Houston**
	Going for his third 1,000-yard season, never been done in UH history.		
10.	**T.J. Moe**	Jr.	**Missouri**
	Slippery slot WR authored "Moe Miracle" catch-and-run to beat SDSU.		
11.	**Jeremy Ebert**	Sr.	**Northwestern**
	First-team all-conference last season; Dan Persa's favorite target.		
12.	**Dwight Jones**	Sr.	**North Carolina**
	Emerged as a playmaker last year; had 233-yard effort vs. Florida State.		
13.	**Marquess Wilson**	So.	**Washington State**
	Tall, lean receiver is Pac-12's best deep threat (18.3 yards per catch).		
14.	**Roy Roundtree**	Jr.	**Michigan**
	In the spring, there was talk he might be awarded coveted No. 1 jersey.		
15.	**Joe Adams**	Sr.	**Arkansas**
	Arkansas overflowing with depth at the receiver position		
16.	**Conner Vernon**	Jr.	**Duke**
	Second-team All-ACC and led league in catches per game (6.1).		
17.	**Tavon Austin**	Jr.	**West Virginia**
	Moves to inside WR; numbers should soar in Dana Holgorsen's offense.		
18.	**Eric Page**	Jr.	**Toledo**
	Waterbug of a receiver even put up 120 yards on Boise State last year.		
19.	**Lance Lewis**	Sr.	**East Carolina**
	Finished season on tear, including 11 catches for 137 yards vs. Maryland.		
20.	**Tavarres King**	Jr.	**Georgia**
	He'll be the man catching lots of passes from Aaron Murray this season.		

TOP TIGHT ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Michael Egnew**	Sr.	**Missouri**
	He's already Missouri's third All-American tight end since 2007.		
2.	**George Bryan**	Sr.	**NC State**
	A two-time first-team All-ACC player; 13 career TD catches.		
3.	**Ladarius Green**	Sr.	**Louisiana**
	Led the nation's tight ends in 2010 with 794 receiving yards.		
4.	**David Paulson**	Sr.	**Oregon**
	Field-stretcher (17.4 ypc) that gives Ducks even more room to operate.		
5.	**Orson Charles**	Jr.	**Georgia**
	On the same page: Was a high school teammate of QB Aaron Murray.		

* Not rated due to spring suspension: Michael Floyd, Jr., Notre Dame

Alabama's Jones Puts the 'All' in All-American

In the late 1940s through the mid-1960s, basketball coach and author Clair Bee wrote a series of books about a star high school athlete named Chip Hilton, who played for Valley Falls High School.

Hilton starred in every sport, generally considered an All-American boy. The character of Hilton was based on a Seton Hall basketball player named Bob Davies.

If someone were writing those books today, Alabama offensive lineman Barrett Jones could be the model. If there is a quintessential All-American boy playing college football, it is Jones.

Photo by RD Moore

BARRETT JONES

When he graduated from Evangelical Christian School in Memphis in 2008, Jones had all the accolades an offensive lineman could hope to have.

He was Division II AA Mr. Football in the state of Tennessee. He was the No. 1 player in Tennessee. He played in the Army All-American Bowl and was actually rated No. 1 nationally at center by Rivals.com.

As a true freshman, Jones played in three games before a shoulder injury ended his season and forced him to take a medical redshirt year. He came back in 2009 and immediately won the right guard spot, starting every game as Alabama won the national championship.

Along the way, Jones, and his offensive line mates were instrumental in helping Mark Ingram win the Heisman Trophy. Jones was named to the Freshman All-America team.

As for the non-football part of his life, Jones has been honored for academic achievement and community service. In 2010, he didn't take the normal college spring break vacation. Instead, he went to Haiti to help victims of the devastating earthquake.

"We have problems day-to-day and week-to-week in our lives," Jones told Izzy Gould of the *Tuscaloosa News* bureau. "We make such a big deal about them and we think they're so extreme. You go over there and you literally see somebody who has nothing and lives under a tin roof and a mud hut, and you think how fortunate you are to come home and have food."

The experience so touched Jones that he returned to Haiti during this past spring break.

"I saw a little progress, but honestly not much," he said. "There's so much damage over there it's like, where do you start? As we know, they don't really have the infrastructure in place to really rebuild it. It's still a bad situation."

As a sophomore, Jones ran his streak to 25 consecutive starts at right guard before a high ankle sprain forced him to miss the final two games of the regular season. He entered spring drills expected to be one of the top guards in the country.

So what happens?

Naturally, coach Nick Saban tried Johnson at left tackle late in spring drills. Saban never said before or after the spring game whether the move will be permanent, but Jones did play the entire A-Day game at left tackle with the No. 1 unit.

(For the sake of our player rankings, we consider Jones' body of work at guard.)

Jones never complained about the late-spring move. In fact, he embraced it.

"We've been experimenting with some different lineups, and I've been there a little bit," Jones said about playing left tackle.

"It's been very different, but it has been a challenge. I think it is exciting to be challenged. I am extremely comfortable at guard, obviously, but I think it has been an opportunity for me to show some versatility.

"It's been a lot of fun and a whole new position," Jones added. "I'll play anywhere if it helps the team; I really don't care."

Chip Hilton could not have said it any better.

— Ben Cook

TOP CENTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Mike Brewster**	Sr.	Ohio State
	A fourth-year starter who already has pulled in All-America honors.		
2.	**David Molk**	Sr.	Michigan
	Right there with Brewster; was first-team All-Big Ten by coaches.		
3.	**William Vlachos**	Sr.	Alabama
	Second-team All-SEC last season; has made 27 consecutive starts.		
4.	**Ben Habern**	Jr.	Oklahoma
	Oklahoma reports that he had 123 knockdown blocks last season.		
5.	**Moe Petrus**	Sr.	UConn
	Made 39 starts in a row, including 13 at left tackle in 2008.		
6.	**Travis Swanson**	So.	Arkansas
	Tall for middle man (6-5, 305); Freshman All-SEC last season.		
7.	**Ben Jones**	Sr.	Georgia
	Seems to have been around forever; 35 starts at center in SEC.		
8.	**Scott Wedige**	Sr.	Northern Illinois
	All-MAC first teamer cleared the way last season for stout ground attack.		

TOP GUARDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Barrett Jones**	Jr.	Alabama
	Moving to tackle? Won first-team All-SEC honors as a sophomore.		
2.	**David DeCastro**	Jr.	Stanford
	All-Pac-10 player part of line that has allowed 13 sacks in two seasons.		
3.	**Larry Warford**	Jr.	Kentucky
	Second-team All-SEC last season at right guard.		
4.	**Brandon Washington**	Jr.	Miami
	The leader of a promising line after earning first-team All-ACC award.		
5.	**Lonnie Edwards**	Sr.	Texas Tech
	Enters his third year as the starter; was second-team all-league in 2010.		
6.	**Joel Foreman**	Sr.	Michigan State
	Fourth-year starter will push for first-team All-Big Ten honors.		

TOP TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Nate Potter**	Sr.	Boise State
	Will be BSU's second first-round tackle in five years (Ryan Clady).		
2.	**Matt Reynolds**	Sr.	BYU
	Would be three-time all-conference ... if BYU was still in a conference.		
3.	**Levy Adcock**	Sr.	Oklahoma State
	Mostly came from nowhere last season to become All-Big-12.		
4.	**Jonathan Martin**	Jr.	Stanford
	Nation's most important blue-collar job: Protect Andrew Luck's blind side.		
5.	**Mike Adams**	Sr.	Ohio State
	Big Ten's best lineman takes a little hit here because of suspension.		
6.	**Kelechi Osemele**	Sr.	Iowa State
	Doesn't get much bigger than this -- 6-6, 354 pounds.		
7.	**Riley Reiff**	Jr.	Iowa
	Another big, tough Iowa offensive lineman. A future first-rounder?		
8.	**Andrew Datko**	Sr.	Florida State
	One of three veteran starters along the Seminoles' front line.		
9.	**Mike Ryan**	Sr.	UConn
	Building off All-Big East season and midseason move to left tackle.		
10.	**Cordy Glenn**	Sr.	Georgia
	Moving from guard to better protect Aaron Murray from the left side.		

Big Problem, Big Ten: You Gotta Get by Crick

JARED CRICK

Photo by John Williamson

Formal introductions will come in the fall, but Nebraska All-American defensive tackle Jared Crick started his acquaintance with Big Ten offenses in the spring by watching game film.

His initial reaction of the linemen he'll butt heads with in the Cornhuskers' new conference?

"They're very technique sound and they're very big," he said. "They love to run the ball and we love to stop the run. That's something we pride ourselves on, and it's going to be a battle every game.

"We're expecting a fight to win the game, but that's what we want. We wouldn't have it any other way."

Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini hinted in the spring that the Huskers could throw some wrinkles at their new opponents. He said he might line up Crick at defensive end. Crick said the Huskers worked on different looks in the spring, utilizing more blitzes and movement than they had in the past.

But when push comes to shove — and Crick did those things pretty well in the Big 12 for the past two seasons — Crick doesn't believe Nebraska will have to resort to defensive tricks.

His message to Big Ten teams that think they can try to run the ball down the Huskers' throats: Bring it.

"If we play our defense, it doesn't matter who's running at us with what," he said. "We're still going to beat them. Everybody on this defense believes that."

And they believe it in part because Crick made Nebraska fans happy last January with those two magic words: "I'm staying."

He was among a trio of Nebraska juniors who considered leaving early for the NFL.

Instead, Crick, cornerback Alfonzo Dennard and linebacker Lavonte David decided to return for their senior seasons, giving the Huskers legitimate All-America candidates on three different levels of the defense.

"I think Fonzo is going to be as good of a corner as there is in the country, same with Crick and same with Lavonte," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "You surround them with the type of talent and the type of depth that we have, and we have a chance to be pretty formidable on that side of the ball."

The 6-6, 285-pound Crick, a second-team Associated Press All-America selection in 2010, gives the Huskers a dominant presence in the middle of the line. His size, strength and quickness have made him a disruptive force in each of the past two seasons, when he recorded 19 sacks on a defense that ranked as one of the nation's best.

Crick, who missed the second half of spring practice with a minor knee injury, needs 10.5 sacks to become Nebraska's career leader. He's expected to be back at full speed by the time Nebraska starts preseason practice in August.

As a senior, Crick will try to become the 22nd player in Nebraska history to earn first-team all-conference honors for a third time ... and it would be pretty cool to do that while spanning two conferences.

Crick was projected as a first- or second-round pick had he come out this year. Next year, there's little doubt that, barring injury, Crick will be a first-round selection.

NFLDraftScout.com ranks Crick as the No. 1 defensive tackle for 2012.

Based on what sticking around did for a former teammate, Crick figures his decision to stay in Lincoln one more season will pay off.

Ndamukong Suh considered leaving Nebraska in 2008 but returned for his senior season in 2009. He wound up being named the AP Player of the Year, went No. 2 in the 2010 draft and starred last fall as a rookie for the Detroit Lions.

"He could have come out a year early and would have probably been drafted around the bottom of the first round," said Gil Brandt, senior draft analyst for NFL.com., referring to Suh. "By staying in school, he probably made himself $35 million over the course of his first contract."

Brandt regularly counsels juniors on sticking around for their senior seasons.

"More so than the money being much better," he said, "they come in and they're better players."

— Steve Pivovar

TOP DEFENSIVE ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Brandon Jenkins**	Jr.	**Florida State**
	Monster first season as a starter: 13.5 sacks, 21.5 tackles for loss.		
2.	**Quinton Coples**	Sr.	**North Carolina**
	Should be even more disruptive as full-time end after also playing inside.		
3.	**Devin Taylor**	Jr.	**South Carolina**
	Impressive to be first-team SEC defensive lineman as a sophomore.		
4.	**Bruce Irvin**	Sr.	**West Virginia**
	14 sacks to lead attacking unit that was second nationally in sacks (45).		
5.	**Vinny Curry**	Sr.	**Marshall**
	12 sacks, led nation's DL with 94 tackles (despite late knee problems).		
6.	**Jacquies Smith**	Sr.	**Missouri**
	Teams with Brad Madison to form best pair of ends in Big 12.		
7.	**Shea McClellin**	Sr.	**Boise State**
	All-WAC last season with 13.5 tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks.		
8.	**Jonathan Massaquoi**	Jr.	**Troy**
	Sun Belt terror who had 13.5 sacks and 20.5 tackles for loss last season.		
9.	**Jake Bequette**	Sr.	**Arkansas**
	Second-team All-SEC last year; leads a strong pass-rushing outfit.		
10.	**Vince Browne**	Sr.	**Northwestern**
	Productive player begins season with 31 career tackles for loss.		
11.	**Nick Perry**	Jr.	**USC**
	Has all the physical requirements; USC's most dominant defender.		
12.	**Ronnell Lewis**	Jr.	**Oklahoma**
	Small, quick hybrid end; "The Hammer" ready to blossom into a star.		

TOP DEFENSIVE TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Jared Crick**	Sr.	**Nebraska**
	With a Suh-like presence, he has 19 sacks in the past two seasons.		
2.	**Billy Winn**	Sr.	**Boise State**
	Helps lead Boise State defensive line that still is among nation's best.		
3.	**Kendall Reyes**	Sr.	**Connecticut**
	All-Big East 298-pounder can play inside or out; had 79-yard INT return.		
4.	**Mike Martin**	Sr.	**Michigan**
	Always productive from interior; has speed to rush off edge, too.		
5.	**Josh Chapman**	Sr.	**Alabama**
	310-pounder is going to eat up blockers for super Bama back seven.		
6.	**John Simon**	Jr.	**Ohio State**
	Non-suspended Buckeye will be a key factor early in the season.		
7.	**Kawann Short**	Jr.	**Purdue**
	Active 300-pounder to draw more attention with DE Ryan Kerrigan gone.		
8.	**Jerel Worthy**	Jr.	**Michigan State**
	Strong player already has bulled his way into 17 tackles for loss.		
9.	**Kheeston Randall**	Sr.	**Texas**
	A cornerstone for DC Manny Diaz's more aggressive Texas defense.		
10.	**Everett Dawkins**	Jr.	**Florida State**
	Super quick on the interior for Mark Stoops' havoc-causing defense.		
11.	**J.R. Sweezy**	Sr.	**NC State**
	Breakout season in 2010 with 11.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks.		
12.	**Marcus Forston**	Jr.	**Miami**
	Has NFL-type skills; might be slowed early because of MCL injury.		

OU's 'Mouth of the South' Helps Sooners Roar to No. 1

TRAVIS LEWIS

Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

When weighing the decision of whether to leave for the NFL or stay at Oklahoma, all Travis Lewis had to do was look around the Sooner locker room.

Before long, the outside linebacker was sold on coming back.

"We've got a lot, a lot of athletes on this team. A lot of playmakers on either side of the ball," said Lewis, who was considered a potential first-round pick in this year's draft.

"One of the biggest reasons I came back is because I feel like this defense is worthy of winning a national championship. So is this team."

Lewis' return is a big reason why Oklahoma starts the season as *Lindy's* preseason No. 1.

"His ability and his leadership and his knowledge of the game is huge for this team," defensive coordinator Brent Venables said.

Lewis has led OU in tackles for three consecutive years. He is one more banner season away from becoming the first in Sooner history to lead the team in tackles all four years. Also, with 362 career stops, Lewis is just 128 away from moving into second in the OU record books for career tackles behind former All-American Daryl Hunt (1975-78).

"Anytime you have a first-round pick coming back, it never hurts," said middle linebacker Austin Box, who came to OU with Lewis in 2007. "Especially a guy like Travis, the type of player he is. He's on the leader board in tackles with the greats in OU history.

"When it's all said and done, he's going to be considered one of the greats."

But Lewis' value to the Sooner defense can't be measured merely in tackles.

Lewis — nicknamed by Venables as "The Mouth of the South" for his incessant trash-talking — remains the vocal and emotional leader of the defense.

And someone who thrives on keeping football fun.

In the days leading up to 2010 spring game, Lewis crowed that his White team would shut out the Red. Sure enough, it did. Afterward, Lewis showed up to the interview room donning a white jumpsuit with a white hat and shades to celebrate.

He did the same thing this past spring, wearing all red after his side defeated the White.

"That's me. Making players love football. I love that," Lewis said. "I want to spread that to the other players. Make them remember why they're playing this game.

"Go out there and not just be the voice of the coaches, but have fun with the guys."

Lewis, however, isn't all fun and games.

After the Sooners lost back-to-back road games to Missouri and Texas A&M last season, Lewis called out the defense for wilting in the fourth quarter. He criticized his own play, while also declaring OU could still capture the Big 12 title by winning out — which is exactly what the Sooners did.

"Travis is entertaining," coach Bob Stoops said. "He's a great competitor, though. It's one thing to be entertaining without being a great competitor — I'm not much for that.

"He's what you want in how he works and with his toughness and attitude and taking it seriously."

Handling the pressure of being No. 1 is something Lewis definitely takes seriously.

Quick to remind teammates and media that, "We were No. 1 for about five days last year and we know how that ended," Lewis considers it his responsibility to help keep a relatively young team on an even keel despite facing enormous expectations.

"We have to keep focusing on the little things. Keep focusing on the details," he said.

"Things like not missing class, keeping the locker room clean. When you're ranked No. 1, people start forgetting about the little details and start only thinking about the big picture.

"But we're excited. The way we finished last year, finishing on a strong note. ... The sky's the limit for this defense. For this team."

Thanks in large part to Lewis.

— Jake Trotter

TOP INSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Vontaze Burfict**	Jr.	**Arizona State**
	Most fearsome player in the country; trying to mix in some smarts.		
2.	**Luke Kuechly**	Jr.	**Boston College**
	Best fits the description of "tackling machine" — 329 in two years.		
3.	**Dont'a Hightower**	Jr.	**Alabama**
	Following 2009 knee surgery, looked like old explosive self in spring.		
4.	**Lavonte David**	Sr.	**Nebraska**
	Set Huskers' season record with 152 tackles in first year in program.		
5.	**Tank Carder**	Sr.	**TCU**
	Knocked down Wisconsin's two-point conversion attempt in Rose Bowl.		
6.	**Manti Te'o**	Jr.	**Notre Dame**
	Had 133 tackles on Irish defense that started to grow up late in 2010.		
7.	**Miles Burris**	Sr.	**San Diego State**
	Breakthrough year made him MWC's leader in sacks (9.5) and TFLs (20).		
8.	**Chris Marve**	Sr.	**Vanderbilt**
	Nobody in the SEC right now has more than his 306 career tackles.		
9.	**Bruce Taylor**	Jr.	**Virginia Tech**
	Stout middle 'backer effective in the backfield and against the pass.		
10.	**Jerry Franklin**	Sr.	**Arkansas**
	His 100 tackles last season marked third year leading the Hogs.		
11.	**Audie Cole**	Sr.	**NC State**
	Takes over in the middle after departure of Nate Irving; 97 stops in 2010.		
12.	**Shayne Skov**	Jr.	**Stanford**
	Tough guy hounded Virginia Tech in Orange Bowl —had 12 tackles.		

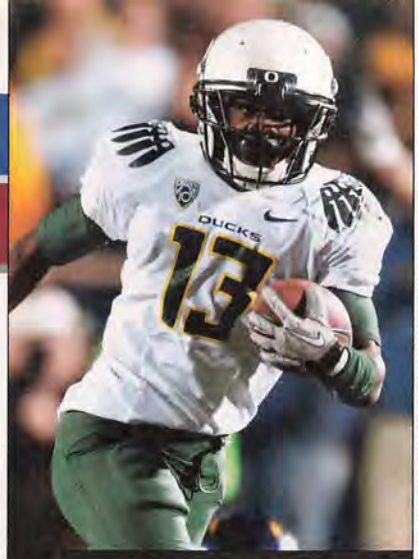
TOP OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Travis Lewis**	Sr.	**Oklahoma**
	No reason why he won't reach 100 stops for the fourth consecutive year.		
2.	**Courtney Upshaw**	Sr.	**Alabama**
	SEC's most dangerous edge defender? 14.5 TFLs, four forced fumbles.		
3.	**Danny Trevathan**	Sr.	**Kentucky**
	Made 144 tackles last season, including 16.5 for loss.		
4.	**Brandon Lindsey**	Sr.	**Pittsburgh**
	Will play a hybrid OLB/DE position this season; 17.5 TFLs last season.		
5.	**Kenny Tate**	Sr.	**Maryland**
	Athletic playmaker moves from FS to play a hybrid OLB/S position.		
6.	**Shaun Lewis**	So.	**Oklahoma State**
	Big second half of year included 12-tackle, two-INT effort vs. Oklahoma.		
7.	**Sean Spence**	Sr.	**Miami**
	Veteran performer posted 16 tackles for loss among 110 stops in 2010.		
8.	**Keenan Robinson**	Sr.	**Texas**
	2010 tackle leader (113) on a defense that was still Texas tough.		
9.	**Mychal Kendricks**	Sr.	**Cal**
	Proven play-maker enters season with 22 career tackles for loss.		
10.	**Mike Taylor**	Jr.	**Wisconsin**
	Just needs to get through the season without any knee problems.		
11.	**Jake Knott**	Jr.	**Iowa State**
	Tough son-of-a-gun made 130 tackles, forced four fumbles last year.		
12.	**Darius Fleming**	Sr.	**Notre Dame**
	Adds dash of big-play potential to Irish with 25.5 career tackles for loss.		

PLAYER RATINGS

DEFENSIVE BACKS

May He Have a Word? Oregon's Harris Aims for Fast Return to 'The Natty'



CLIFF HARRIS

Photo by Jason O. Watson-US PRESSWIRE

His name is Cliff Harris, and he's here to ... lead.

Harris, who intercepted six passes and returned four punts for touchdowns in 2010, has grown. He's still 5-11 and 165 pounds, but he's matured greatly from the kid who introduced himself to his new Oregon teammates a couple of years ago.

"My name is Cliff Harris," the kid from Fresno said then. "And I'm here to lock (stuff) down."

His teammates laughed. They asked, "Who does this skinny kid think he is?"

Soon, everybody found out who Cliff Harris was — electric on the field and highly quotable off it.

The Harris "vocab" spread among Duck fans, who reveled in his description not only of himself — "I'm just like the cheese on top of the nachos" — but of everything else. He coined the term, "The Natty," referring to the BCS National Championship Game, before the Ducks even got there.

But after he likened rival Oregon State to a "little brother," Harris was kept away from the microphones for a little while.

He spoke publicly again during The Natty's media day, telling reporters that he wouldn't have much to say, then holding court for a half-hour, flashing his vocab and a bright smile. In that respect, Harris won't change, but in the spring, Oregon coaches and players noticed the change in him.

"He's just come so far from a maturity standpoint that he's not even the same guy he was a year ago, let alone two years ago," said Tom Osborne, who coaches Harris on the Ducks' special teams.

"He's not a little kid anymore. He's not out here like it's recess between classes. He's much more focused on what he's doing; he listens."

Harris is still excitable, and quotable. Come fall, he'll likely be just as enthusiastic, and he'll probably continue some quirky ways that include circling his teammates at midfield before a game instead of joining them, jumping up and down.

But as far as preparation, as far as putting in the work, Harris has become a serious football player heading into his junior season.

"I would say last year I was more young," Harris said. "I was, like, lackadaisical and just not mature. Now, I know what I want to do, and I'm going to do it."

He did plenty last year. Two of his interceptions came on one day, against one talented quarterback, Stanford's Andrew Luck. Thanks to great recovery speed and body control and that moxie, Harris became a big-play corner.

As a return man, he was named All-America by the Football Writers Association of America and several other media outlets. He earned second-team All-America status as a cornerback by the Associated Press.

All the while, though, his coaches pleaded for a little more "we" and a little less "me." And it's the "we" that seems to be the driving force behind Harris' maturity, a response to the Ducks' narrow miss at college football's top prize.

"Every play that I didn't make, that's what's on my mind — every play that I missed, they sit in the back of my head," Harris said. "I love the game, and I'm a winner — I don't like to lose. The drive to win, that's what it is."

Harris leads — and we use that term seriously now — what should be a strong secondary as the Ducks try to win the Pac-12 and get back to "The Natty."

The defense as a whole was the talk of the spring in Eugene, wreaking havoc on the prolific Oregon offense to the point where running back LaMichael James proclaimed this the best defense ever at Oregon.

"The potential is always there, to be the best secondary in the nation," Harris said. "And the drive and the work ethic is there. So we just got to put it into play."

After an offseason of maturation and replaying "The Natty" in his mind, Harris is eager to get going on his biggest return yet — to the title game.

"I'm stronger, faster, more wiser on the field, more knowledge — everything," he said.

He's no longer the cheese. He's one very important nacho.

"He's just a different guy," Osborne said. "It's fun to see."

— John Hunt

TOP CORNERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Cliff Harris**	Jr.	**Oregon**
	Quick, aggressive, elite athletically ... and he picked Andrew Luck twice.		
2.	**Jayron Hosley**	Jr.	**Virginia Tech**
	Nine picks last season to lead nation; will he get many chances in 2011?		
3.	**Stephon Gilmore**	Jr.	**South Carolina**
	As much potential as anyone on this list, and more dedicated now.		
4.	**Alfonzo Dennard**	Sr.	**Nebraska**
	Another all-star to follow in footsteps of Blackshirts' Prince Amukamara.		
5.	**Keith Tandy**	Sr.	**West Virginia**
	Lindy's pick for preseason Big East Defensive Player of the Year.		
6.	**Shaun Prater**	Sr.	**Iowa**
	Earned All-Big Ten honors in 2010, when he picked off four passes.		
7.	**Chase Minnifield**	Sr.	**Virginia**
	All-ACC last season, with six interceptions and NFL skills.		
8.	**Morris Claiborne**	Jr.	**LSU**
	5 INTs last season as he emerges from Patrick Peterson's shadow.		
9.	**Coryell Judie**	Sr.	**Texas A&M**
	A&M's best cover man in a decade? One of top playmakers in the Big 12.		
10.	**Casey Hayward**	Sr.	**Vanderbilt**
	Led the SEC with 17 passes defended last season; had six INTs.		
11.	**Josh Robinson**	Jr.	**UCF**
	Was more than respectable against A.J. Green in Liberty Bowl victory.		
12.	**Xavier Rhodes**	So.	**Florida State**
	Tall and rangy, was ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year last season.		

TOP SAFETIES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Mark Barron**	Sr.	**Alabama**
	2010 All-American limited in spring (torn pec) but will be hitting soon.		
2.	**Robert Lester**	Jr.	**Alabama**
	SEC-high 8 INTs last year. Bama 1-2 at safety? Yes, Saban is that good.		
3.	**Harrison Smith**	Sr.	**Notre Dame**
	Had five INTs in four-game winning streak to end Notre Dame's season.		
4.	**Delano Howell**	Sr.	**Stanford**
	Former RB gives Stanford what it always needs in secondary — athleticism.		
5.	**T.J. McDonald**	Jr.	**USC**
	Son of former USC Trojan Tim McDonald; made 89 tackles in 2010.		
6.	**Hakeem Smith**	So.	**Louisville**
	Earned Big East Rookie of the Year honors on a standout defense.		
7.	**Ty Zimmerman**	So.	**Kansas State**
	Was second-team All-Big 12 last season as a true freshman.		
8.	**Jordan Kovacs**	Jr.	**Michigan**
	Had 116 tackles last season to rank second in the Big Ten.		
9.	**Tony Jefferson**	So.	**Oklahoma**
	Superb freshman season as nickel back earned comps to Roy Williams.		
10.	**Ray-Ray Armstrong**	Jr.	**Miami**
	At 6-4, he has the look of being the next great Miami defensive back.		
11.	**Jarred Holley**	Jr.	**Pittsburgh**
	Five interceptions last season and second-team All-Big East honors.		
12.	**Duke Ihenacho**	Sr.	**San Jose State**
	Two-time All-WAC player back from redshirt season (foot injury).		

*Not rated due to spring ACL injury: Omar Bolden, Sr., Arizona State

ALL-PURPOSE

Big Schools Missed on Johnson; Now, It's Defenders Who Whiff

Damaris Johnson was always told he was too small. His size kept him from big-time scholarship offers.

Johnson admitted it was tough to handle rejection after putting up solid statistics at Destrehan (La.) High School, which is near New Orleans. He was not recruited hard by LSU; he drew little interest from Tulane.

DAMARIS JOHNSON

Photo by Dennis Hubbard

So, Johnson found a home at the University of Tulsa, which might be appropriate because it is the smallest football school in the FBS. Johnson stands only 5-8 and weighs 170 pounds, but he is the big man on campus.

Johnson possesses NCAA records for total all-purpose yardage and career kickoff return yardage — and he did it in only three seasons.

The wide receiver/returner has 7,796 total career yards, surpassing Western Michigan's Brandon West (7,764 yards) with a 326-yard performance in last season's Hawaii Bowl. The 10,000-yard mark is within reach, which is amazing considering only seven players in FBS history have exceeded 7,000 all-purpose yards.

Johnson has 3,417 kickoff return yards, altering many game plans by forcing short kickoffs that swing field position in the Hurricane's direction.

How does it feel for the player who was once considered too small to make such an impact in major college football?

"When I first signed with Tulsa, I thought about that. It frustrated me that a lot of schools did not recruit me and I felt I could do things that could help their programs," Johnson said.

"But now I am happy that they did not offer me a scholarship or pick me up. I do not think any place would have given me a chance to show my skills like I get to do at Tulsa. This is the place where I was supposed to be all along."

Tulsa won out over TCU, Memphis and Southern Miss. Johnson selected Tulsa because of the high-powered offense of then-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn. He also was promised to play as a true freshman.

Johnson made an impact in his third game, grabbing three touchdown receptions against New Mexico. He had 10 receiving touchdowns that season while getting carries from his wide receiver position in Malzahn's hurry-up, no-huddle system and also returning kickoffs. He had six games with 200-plus all-purpose yards.

Johnson added punt return responsibilities in his sophomore season and showed his skills in the season opener at Tulane. With plenty of friends and family in the Louisiana Superdome, Johnson returned a punt 66 yards for a touchdown. Johnson had three consecutive games with 300-plus all-purpose yards and he led the nation by averaging 224.4 yards per game.

Johnson led the nation in all-purpose yards again last season with 202.2 yards per game, earning Associated Press second-team All-America honors.

He became Tulsa's "wildcat" quarterback and finished with a team-high 13 touchdowns. Highlights included a 59-yard punt return for a score in a win at Notre Dame and the 326 total yards in the bowl in a 62-35 win over the Warriors.

One intangible to the upcoming season: Johnson will play for his fourth different offensive coordinator — Greg Peterson — in as many years. It does not worry him.

"Every year, we have been pretty productive on the offensive side of the ball. Each coordinator has put us in places to make plays. I see the same thing with Coach Peterson. He's putting different wrinkles in to expand the offense," Johnson said.

Tulsa's nonconference schedule will put Johnson on a big stage. The Hurricane plays Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Boise State in September. All are in *Lindy's* preseason Top 10. Johnson said he's looking forward to the challenge, but it's the one road game in the middle of that tough trio of games that he is excited about.

"We play at Tulane in the middle of the Oklahoma and Oklahoma State games," Johnson said. "That is my highlight this year. I am getting to go home and play in front of my family."

Plus, that game counts in the Conference USA standings.

"I have not accomplished everything that I want," Johnson said. "We have not won a conference championship. I would love to do that."

— Eric Bailey

TOP KICKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Blair Walsh**	Sr.	Georgia
	Two-time Groza Award finalist has made 40 of 45 FGs in past two years.		
2.	**Danny Hrapmann**	Jr.	Southern Miss
	Connected on 26 of 31 last season, with a long of 54 yards.		
3.	**Grant Ressel**	Sr.	Missouri
	Can't argue with reliability from inside 50; 43 of 46 FGs in 2009 and 2010.		
4.	**Will Snyderwine**	Sr.	Duke
	His career percentage of 86.4 ranks third among active kickers.		
5.	**Dan Conroy**	Jr.	Michigan State
	All-Big Ten last season after making 14 of 15 with a long of 50.		
6.	**Phillip Welch**	Sr.	Wisconsin
	Badgers will be happily counting on him for fourth consecutive season.		
7.	**Carson Wiggs**	Sr.	Purdue
	Has kicked the four longest field goals in school history — 59, 55, 53, 51.		
8.	**Dave Teggart**	Sr.	UConn
	52-yard game-winner against USF sent Huskies into a BCS bowl.		

TOP PUNTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Quinn Sharp**	Jr.	Oklahoma State
	Huge leg on punts (46.24 yards) and kickoffs (national-best 53 touchbacks).		
2.	**Drew Butler**	Sr.	Georgia
	Has career average of 46.1 and knows when to take a little off, too.		
3.	**Bryan Anger**	Sr.	Cal
	Two-time All-Pac-10; set Cal mark with 45.6-yard average last season.		
4.	**Jeff Locke**	Jr.	UCLA
	Averaged 45.8 yards, and Bruins led nation in net punting (41.3).		
5.	**Tress Way**	Jr.	Oklahoma
	Two more years to go, but 45.4-yard average is OU's career best.		
6.	**Tyler Campbell**	Jr.	Ole Miss
	2010 average of 46.37 was just enough to claim the national lead.		
7.	**Kyle Martens**	Sr.	Rice
	Was at 38.3 yards as a freshman ... up to 46.0-yard average last season.		
8.	**Bobby Cowan**	Jr.	Idaho
	10th nationally in punting last year; Vandals were 12th in net yardage.		

TOP ALL PURPOSE

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Damaris Johnson**	Sr.	Tulsa
	Going for his third consecutive season of leading in all-purpose yards.		
2.	**Cliff Harris**	Jr.	Oregon
	Four punt return TDs last season means he's on this list and at CB.		
3.	**Brandon Boykin**	Sr.	Georgia
	Standout corner; four KR scores and might also return punts this year.		
4.	**T.Y. Hilton**	Sr.	FIU
	Career: 17 receiving TDs, 6 rushing, 4 on kicks, 1 by punt, 1 by passing.		
5.	**David Wilson**	Jr.	Virginia Tech
	Led ACC in kick returns in 2010, and speedster is now the No. 1 tailback.		
6.	**Eric Page**	Jr.	Toledo
	MAC mighty-mite receiver returned three kickoffs for scores in 2010.		
7.	**Robert Woods**	So.	USC
	Made immediate impact as a freshman at receiver (65 catches) and KR.		
8.	**Chris Owusu**	Jr.	Stanford
	Game-breaking speed ... just needs a full season of good health.		

UNIT RANKINGS

TOP10 BACKFIELDS

As always, we're looking for just the right combination of quarterbacks and running backs in this category. It's probably not enough to just have top 10 talent at quarterback (say, Baylor's Robert Griffin) if you have a newcomer at running back. And it's usually not ideal, for our rating purposes, to have a superb pair of running backs (say, Auburn's Michael Dyer and Onterrio McCalebb) if you can't determine after spring who your quarterback is going to be.

Using a lot of art and a touch of science, here are our top 10 backfields:

1. STANFORD

It starts with Andrew Luck, of course, king of the class at quarterback. You know all about him (and if you don't, you can read more about him in this very magazine). While he can make all the throws and use his shoulder to deliver a wallop to a defender when he takes off, there is a beautiful run-game balance to Stanford's offense.

As was the case last season with Luck — and as will be the case again this season with new head coach David Shaw — the Cardinal remains committed to being a downhill running team. Tailback Stepfan Taylor further asserted himself in the spring after rushing for 1,137 yards last season, averaging 5.1 yards per carry. The top backups at running back return, too.

2. OREGON

The Ducks' backfield is more electric than Stanford's (but, again, the edge goes to Andrew Luck). Oregon quarterback Darron Thomas was the big question mark at this time last year, but he was a cool customer when the season started, throwing for 30 touchdowns with only nine interceptions while deftly handling the decisions — and the football — in the read-option offense.

While not as fast as ex-Oregon QB Dennis Dixon nor as strong as immediate predecessor Jeremiah Masoli, Thomas has the right skills to take advantage of whatever the defense gives him. Often, that involves identifying the right matchup and giving the ball to the nation's leading rusher (LaMichael James) or blurrific Kenjon Barner ... and there's even more speed deeper in reserve.

3. BOISE STATE

Senior quarterback Kellen Moore is Mr. Efficiency, although he'll have to get things done through the air this season without favorite targets Austin Pettis and Titus Young. The Broncos will find a way to get it done — they always do — while the offense can always step up the number of carries for Doug Martin, who rushed for 1,260 yards last season, averaging a healthy 6.3 yards per attempt.

4. TEXAS A&M

With the Aggies spinning their wheels last year, stuck at 3-3 in coach Mike Sherman's third season, he gave an opportunity to backup quarterback Ryan Tannehill and further chances to running back Cyrus Gray. Together, they fueled a six-game winning streak to end the regular season ... and now they're back for their senior seasons.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

5. OKLAHOMA

Landry Jones went from over-his-head injury replacement in 2009 to one of the nation's most prolific passers in 2010. He's now the central character in a national championship run. With DeMarco Murray gone, the tailback baton could pass to Roy Finch, who dazzled at times as a freshman, zig-zagging through defenses. But it could be a committee approach at running back because the wave of talent doesn't stop, with speedy freshman Brandon Williams trying to take his share of carries.

6. MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans look to have Top 25 staying power behind third-year starting quarterback Kirk Cousins (18th nationally in passing efficiency last season) and junior running back Edwin Baker. His 1,201 yards last season were just a stop, he says, on the way to 2,000 this year.

7. SAN DIEGO STATE

Senior Ryan Lindley, with his 6-4 size, is the best pro quarterback prospect in the Mountain West. SDSU is sticking with its pro-style offense under new coordinator Andy Ludwig, but the lack of experience at receiver means defenses might take their chances in the secondary and scheme to stack the box against sophomore RB Ronnie Hillman, coming off a 1,532-yard, 17-touchdown debut.

8. GEORGIA

The Bulldogs have the surest bet at quarterback in the SEC — sophomore Aaron Murray, who set a school freshman record with 3,216 total yards. Options are plentiful at running back with Caleb King, Washaun Ealey and, most excitingly, true freshman Isaiah Crowell.

9. CINCINNATI

The Bearcats, trying to bounce back from a 4-8 season, have two All-Big East talents in quarterback Zach Collaros and running back Isaiah Pead, both seniors.

10. OHIO STATE

This applies only after the fifth game of the season (those five suspended players really make the Buckeyes a bear to rank this season), but it's not the worst thing to get a potential nine games out of QB Terrelle Pryor and RB Dan Herron.

TOP10 RECEIVERS

1. OKLAHOMA

Hard to believe that just two years ago, this was a weakness for the Sooners. Poised to shatter NCAA career receiving records, Ryan Broyles is one of the two best wideouts in the country. He's flanked by Kenny Stills, who set OU freshman receiving records, and senior Dejuan Miller, back from season-ending knee surgery.

If that wasn't enough, the Sooners signed one of the top prep receivers in the country: Whitehouse (Texas) phenom Trey Metoyer, who is capable of contributing right away.

2. ARKANSAS

The Razorbacks are stacked, led by Greg Childs, who has 1,000-yard potential as he comes off an injury-shortened season. He'll have to the share the passes with Joe Adams, Jarius Wright and Cobi Hamilton, who all give new starting QB Tyler Wilson many happy options. These four receivers combined for 170 receptions last season for 2,870 yards and 23 touchdowns.

3. OKLAHOMA STATE

Coming off a Biletnikoff-winning season, Justin Blackmon is back to do more damage. Blackmon (20 TDs) was unstoppable in his first season as

a starter and set an NCAA record by recording 100 receiving yards in every game he played. Slot receiver Josh Cooper (68 receptions) can make defenses pay for doubling Blackmon with his underneath routes. Michael Harrison, Isaiah Anderson, Hubert Anyiam, Colton Chelf and Tracy Moore, who combined for 55 catches in 2010, have all shown flashes and make this a deep and dangerous unit.

4. TEXAS A&M

Jeff Fuller gets overshadowed in the Big 12 by Ryan Broyles and Justin Blackmon, but he might boast the most pro potential of the three. Fuller and Ryan Swope are coming off school-record 72-reception seasons, and starter Uzoma Nwachukwu rounds out this formidable unit.

5. ARIZONA

Juron Criner posted one of the most prolific seasons in school history, with 82 catches for 1,233 yards and 11 touchdowns — most of which was accomplished at far less than 100 percent because of injuries. The field could further open up for him this season with the addition of Texas transfer Dan Buckner, giving the Wildcats a pair of talented 6-4 receivers on opposite sides. Arizona is as deep as anyone at receiver, including ultra-reliable David Douglas.

6. SOUTH CAROLINA

Alshon Jeffery has the height, skills and production to go high in the 2012 NFL Draft. He will be looking to build off a sophomore season in which he made 88 catches for 1,517 yards and nine touchdowns. D.L. Moore gives the Gamecocks more 6-4 height, with Ace Sanders providing wiggle and speed from the slot.

7. VIRGINIA TECH

Hard to believe the run-oriented Hokies have the top receivers in the ACC, but believe it. They have two big guys who can post up smaller corners in Jarrett Boykin and Marcus Davis, a classic possession receiver in Danny Coale and a burner in Dyrell Roberts. Can new QB Logan Thomas get them the ball?

8. MICHIGAN

As Michigan transitions to a pro-style offense, the big question is whether Denard Robinson can handle the passing game. He'll have lots of help at receiver, starting with Roy Roundtree and Darryl Stonum. Junior Hemingway and Martavious Odoms are other good targets. That's a combined 169 catches for 2,402 yards and 16 touchdowns.

9. MISSOURI

The Tigers bring back all three starting receivers, plus *Lindy's* preseason All-American tight end Michael Egnew. Slot man T.J. Moe was ninth nationally last season in catches per game (7.1); Egnew was 10th (6.9).

10. HOUSTON

With Patrick Edwards on the outside and Tyron Carrier at an inside receiver position, Houston has two seniors who are trying to do something that hasn't been done in school history — reach 1,000 receiving yards in three seasons.

TOP10 OFFENSIVE LINES

1. ALABAMA

Offensive line coach Jeff Stoutland could have stayed at Miami for new coach Al Golden, but he traded his promising, young Hurricane line for an even better Tide front that could pave the way to a national championship. (Plus, a raise never hurts.)

Stoutland introduced some new blocking schemes in the spring and did some tinkering in the A-Day game, moving all-star guard Barrett Jones to left tackle (where he would replace first-rounder James Carpenter). Jones is one of four returning starters, which include star senior center William Vlachos and sophomore right tackle D.J. Fluker, a former five-star recruit who is growing into the hype.

2. OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys ranked third in the nation in scoring last season and bring back all five starters, including all-conference tackle Levy Adcock. Guards Lane Taylor and Jonathan Rush and center Grant Garner also received all-conference consideration in 2010. This unit can run block or pass protect with the best of them.

Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images

3. FLORIDA STATE

While the Seminoles lose the ACC's best lineman in Rodney Hudson, they return three players with a combined 101 career starts. Left tackle Andrew Datko figures to be the league's top offensive lineman this year, while right tackle Zebrie Sanders has started 37 games. David Spurlock could end up moving from guard to center, but FSU has to shake out its depth in the fall and see who lands where.

4. OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes will be way better when left tackle Mike Adams returns from a five-game suspension, but senior Mike Brewster is an All-American center, so the line should manage to be fine in September. Depth might be an issue, but having two All-America talents for the back half of the season pushes the Buckeyes high on the list.

5. VIRGINIA TECH

The Hokies welcome back four senior starters with a combined 94 career starts, including right tackle Blake DeChristopher (37) and right guard Jaymes Brooks (28). If new center Andrew Miller can adequately replace last year's top lineman, Beau Warren, Tech should be explosive again on offense.

6. STANFORD

It's rare when a team that has to replace three starters ends up ranked among our national top 10 offensive lines. But it's also rare that a team has a pair of All-America candidates such as guard David DeCastro and tackle Jonathan Martin. The Cardinal's tough-guy, downhill approach remains intact, too.

7. LSU

Four starters are back from a punishing line — and they could provide a mismatch in the critical season opener against Oregon, which has only one returning starter along its defensive front.

8. TEXAS TECH

The Red Raiders bring back their five starters, including left guard Lonnie Edwards, who figures to be the best guard in the Big 12. Tackles LaAdrian Waddle and Mikey Okafor are also stout.

9. OLE MISS

The Rebels are strong at tackle with Bradley Sowell on the left and Bobby Massie on the right. This experienced unit helped Ole Miss rate in the national top 20 in rushing last season.

10. MIAMI

Plenty of potential here with All-ACC guard Brandon Washington and former No. 1 recruit Seantrel Henderson, among others. He started at right tackle last season as a true freshman and moves to the left side this year.

UNIT RANKINGS

TOP10 DEFENSIVE LINES

1. FLORIDA STATE

Defensive coordinator Mark Stoops, in his first season at Florida State, transformed the defense into a big-time playmaking outfit, and the line is beginning to look like it's 1999. FSU was third nationally last season in sacks (3.43 per game) and was 29th against the run, allowing 128.7 yards per game.

Defensive end Brandon Jenkins (13.5 sacks last season) is coming off a monster season, and Stoops has four players capable of starting — and starring at tackle — including Everett Dawkins. Junior college transfer Tank Carradine, who signed with the 'Noles over Ohio State and Georgia, showed freakish skill in the spring. The battle to earn playing time in practice will be intense.

2. NEBRASKA

The Blackshirts hit the Big Ten Conference, and the baddest of the Blackshirts is senior defensive tackle Jared Crick, who has 19 career sacks — 10.5 away from Trev Alberts' school record. That seems doable, although Crick will have fewer sack chances away from the pass-happy Big 12. Two other starters return — junior tackle Baker Steinkuhler and junior end Cameron Meredith.

3. NORTH CAROLINA

The NFL pipeline continues. All four starters return, led by Quinton Coples, who notched 10 sacks and 15.5 tackles for loss last year, and he could be even more devastating this season as he moves back to end. On the other side, end Donte Paige-Moss can also get to the quarterback. Tydreke Powell is a 315-pound run-stuffer. There is just a lot of mix-and-match talent, inside and outside, and junior college transfer Sylvester Williams was a spring force, too.

4. SOUTH CAROLINA

Gamecocks fans probably want star recruit Jadeveon Clowney to be a preseason All-American, like, right now ... but they will just have to settle for end Devin Taylor instead. If Clowney can make a Marcus Lattimore-type immediate impact, South Carolina would have an epic pass-rushing duo. As it was, the Gamecocks led the SEC last year with 41 sacks.

5. MISSOURI

Brad Madison had the most sacks last season (7.5) of any player returning in the Big 12. More impressive? He did it backing up Aldon Smith in his first year playing on the defensive line. Madison, a former offensive lineman, figures to only get better with another year at the position. Opposite Madison is Jacquies Smith (5.5 sacks), entering his third year as a starter. The Tigers return senior starting tackles Terrell Resonno and Dominique Hamilton, as well.

6. BOISE STATE

One coach told us last year that Boise State's defensive line was as good as he had seen last season — and that included Alabama's. The Broncos lose end Ryan Winterswyk from that unit but still has a pair of standouts — end Shea McClellin and tackle Billy Winn, who is learning all the time to better play to his potential on every snap.

7. USC

It would have been even better if DT Jurrell Casey had come back for his senior season, but depth issues for USC aren't as critical here as they are elsewhere on its roster. DE Nick Perry further opened eyes in the spring as a pass rusher, and Wes Horton is another experienced end. Christian Tupou, who redshirted last season because of a knee injury, hopes to be fine in the fall.

8. TEXAS

Defensive line wasn't the Longhorns' problem last year, and this year's unit should be strong once more. Veteran tackle Kheeston Randall (22 starts) anchors the middle, and end Jackson Jeffcoat is a rising star. Alex Okafor started at tackle last year but was moved to end in the offseason and had five sacks in the spring game.

9. WEST VIRGINIA

Still good, even though the Mountaineers lost all-conference performers Chris Neild and Scooter Berry. DE Bruce Irvin, was No. 2 nationally in sacks last year with 14 after playing mostly as a third-down specialist. Julian Miller is moving to tackle in the three-man front after being a big-time end.

Jared Crick

Photo by Peter G. Aiken/Getty Images

10. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners don't have a Gerald McCoy or Tommie Harris up the middle, but the four-man rotation of Casey Walker, Stacy McGee, Jamarkus McFarland and Daniel Noble is solid. OU should remain lethal at end. Ronnell Lewis (3.5 sacks) has all the tools, and Frank Alexander (seven sacks) surged down the stretch in 2010 after regaining his spot in the starting lineup.

TOP10 LINEBACKERS

1. ALABAMA

The Tide could time travel with this group and rank as the No. 1 linebackers in any year of the past decade. Dont'a Hightower — explosive again after a 2009 knee injury — and Courtney Upshaw have the stuff of All-Americans and first-round draft picks. The third starter could be Nico Johnson, could be C.J. Mosley ... and either could probably earn all-conference honors if Hightower and Upshaw leave any slivers of glory.

When last seen in real action, these 'backers were smashing Michigan State in a bowl game, limiting standout running back Edwin Baker to 14 yards on 12 carries.

2. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners are so loaded here that coach Bob Stoops called reserve outside linebacker Corey Nelson OU's top defender of the spring. Nelson would start, except he's behind All-American candidate Travis Lewis, OU's leading tackler for the past three seasons. Austin Box and Tom Wort have combined for 20 career starts in the middle.

3. TCU

The Horned Frogs, perennial national leaders in defense — No. 1 in yards allowed last season — have both starters back from their 4-2-5 scheme, including MWC Defensive Player of the Year Tank Carder. Tanner Brock, who had a team-high 106 tackles, is another all-star candidate.

4. TEXAS

The heart and soul of the Longhorns is at linebacker, where seniors Emmanuel Acho (87 tackles) and Keenan Robinson (137 tackles) are back. First-year defensive coordinator Manny Diaz has said that for Texas to return to the elite of college football, Acho and Robinson have to be elite, and they are certainly capable. They'll have plenty of help, too. Jordan Hicks, the No. 1 LB recruit in 2010, could be a future All-American, and Oklahoma native Demarco Cobbs thrived in the spring after being moved down from safety.

DEFENSE

5. ARIZONA STATE

Junior Vontaze Burfict, the (unofficial) national leader in personal fouls across the past two seasons, has worn college football's black hat. Now, he gets to wear a black lid — the Devils changed their helmets this spring at the same time Burfict was trying to change his attitude and reputation. Brandon Magee is fast and physical, too — and consistent. Seniors Shelly Lyons and Colin Parker each have starting experience as they battle for the other spot.

6. BOSTON COLLEGE

Luke Kuechly may be the ACC's best player pound-for-pound. All he does is make tackles, leading the nation last year at 14.1 per game. Add in Kevin Pierre-Louis (93 tackles last season as a true freshman) and a stacked two-deep, and the Eagles might repeat as having the nation's top run defense.

7. NOTRE DAME

Junior Manti Te'o grew as a player and a leader as a sophomore, making a team-high 133 tackles for first-year coach Brian Kelly. The Irish went from 89th nationally against the run in 2009 to a more respectable 50th last season. With two other starting linebackers returning in the 3-4 scheme, the Irish should keep improving.

8. NEBRASKA

Lavonte David was a one-man linebacker crew — and an awfully good one at that — last season as the Cornhuskers sometimes went with six defensive backs to offset the spread passing games of the Big 12. He'll have more linebackers in his neighborhood this season in the Big Ten, with Sean Fisher returning from a broken leg that wiped out his 2010 season and Will Compton, who got "Pipped" last season by David after suffering an injury.

9. VIRGINIA TECH

Bruce Taylor came from nowhere to be second-team All-ACC last year, and the Hokies have three other guys capable of starting on the inside. Can the combination of Jeron Gouveia-Winslow and Alonzo Tweedy give this team adequate play at whip linebacker?

10. OHIO STATE

Etienne Sabino was still 17 when he arrived at Ohio State, so after playing for two years, he took a redshirt last season to mature and wait for jobs to open. Now he's the man in the middle of the defense, and he and Andrew Sweat should provide customary OSU production.

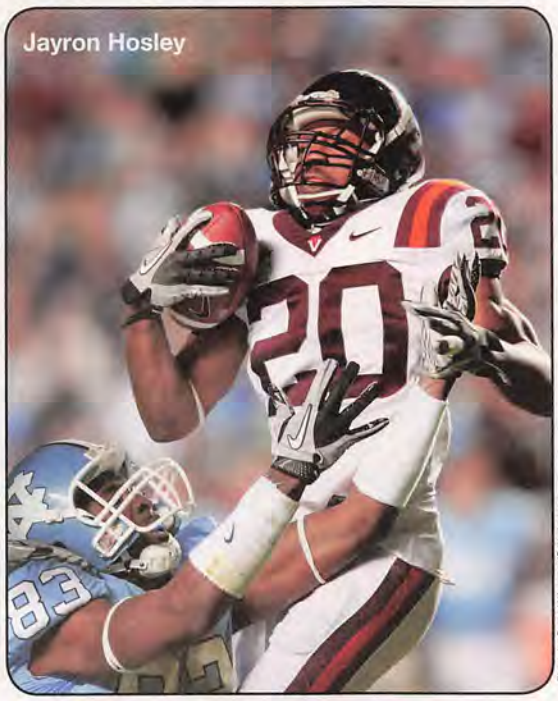


Photo by Grant Halverson/Getty Images

TOP10 DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. ALABAMA

The Crimson Tide has this area covered with four all-star candidates, and they should chow down on what appears to be a weak class of SEC passers. If those quarterbacks (likely under pressure from the Alabama front) try to avoid cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick, they won't find much room on the other side against Dee Milliner. At 6-3, Kirkpatrick's NFL stock is powered by rocket fuel.

But the real strength of the secondary is the safeties — Mark Barron (who had seven interceptions in 2009) and Robert Lester, who picked off eight passes last season.

2. OREGON

The Ducks lose cornerback Talmadge Jackson, but they dip into their surplus and plug in experienced senior Anthony Gildon at the spot opposite All-American Cliff Harris. Harris had six interceptions and 17 pass break-ups last season to lead the nation with 23 passes defended. Starting safeties Eddie Pleasant and John Boyett are back for more on Oregon's speedy defense.

3. FLORIDA STATE

Every starter is back for the Seminoles, which will be led by Greg Reid (flashes of big-time potential) and Xavier Rhodes, second-team All-ACC as a freshman. They should have plenty of chances for picks with the pass rush provided by FSU's defensive line. They might be the best pair of corners in the country (hello, Alabama!), and both safeties return, too.

4. LSU

Can the Tigers lose corner Patrick Peterson — the No. 5 pick in the draft — and still have the top pass defense in the SEC? LSU sure seems to think so, because Morris Claiborne is another standout cornerback and sophomore Tyrann Mathieu showed special playmaking skills last season with 4.5 sacks, five forced fumbles and two interceptions.

5. VIRGINIA TECH

All-American cornerback Jayron Hosley is shooting for 10 to 15 interceptions this year — hey, aren't all the good ones? — although most opponents will avoid him if at all possible. Free safety Eddie Whitley is brainy and always winds up in the right spot. Watch for sophomore rover Antone Exum, who has NFL potential.

6. TEXAS A&M

After a disastrous beginning to last season, the Aggies came on strong midway through Big 12 play. Coryell Judie and Terrence Frederick are solid in coverage. Free safety Trent Hunter and strong safeties Steven Campbell and Steven Terrell are also back, giving the Aggies plenty of experience.

7. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners were delivered a blow in the offseason when All-Big 12 cornerback Jamell Fleming had to leave school for academic reasons. Fleming could return to campus by the fall, but even if he doesn't, OU could still be stingy. Nickel back Tony Jefferson (65 tackles) was stellar as a true freshman, and Demontre Hurst is a playmaking cornerback (three forced fumbles). Aaron Colvin was moved from corner to strong safety in the spring, and if he plays as well as he did in the spring game, look out.

8. MIAMI

The Hurricanes have some concerns at cornerback, so they borrowed from their safety depth and put Jo Jo Nicolas at corner in the spring. That allows Ray-Ray Armstrong, technically not even a returning starter despite 79 tackles and three interceptions last season, to move alongside junior standout Vaughan Telemaque at the safety spots.

9. OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys are not known for defense, but they bring back one of the top safety tandems in the country in Markelle Martin and Johnny Thomas. Martin is the enforcer, while Thomas has a nose for finding the ball. Cornerback Brodrick Brown is solid both in coverage (eight pass breakups) and against the run (77 tackles).

10. SOUTH CAROLINA

With an athlete like Stephon Gilmore at cornerback, it doesn't make sense that South Carolina ranked 97th nationally against the pass last season. Expect major improvement. Akeem Auguste takes over the other corner spot, happy to be back after playing safety last season.

Illustration by Tim Williams

SIMPLY ROLLING

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS? PERHAPS, BUT OFFENSES ARE SCORING MORE THAN EVER

BY ANTHONY GIMINO AND DENNIS DODD

Eddie Pleasant was inconsolable. Michael Dyer was incredible.

There, on the floor of University of Phoenix Stadium was a metaphor for the 2010 season — and perhaps the future. At the end of a defensive struggle in the national championship game, the game-winning drive had been kept upright, barely, by the strength of Dyer's left hand.

Even if it was only barely — because of Dyer's tackle-defying 37-yard run — offense triumphed again.

By now you know that Pleasant, Oregon's strong safety, had made what seemed like a perfect form tackle on Dyer, Auburn's 1,000-yard then-freshman, in the waning seconds of that epic 22-19 win by the Tigers.

To 99.9 percent of the free world, it looked like Dyer was down. To the other 0.1 percent — notably the Auburn sideline, and some heads-up fans — it looked like Dyer was, well, free.

"I heard a lot of voices," Dyer said, "Even the crowd was saying, 'Go, go!'"

Those last two words have been the rallying cry for college football for more than a decade.

Most have become used to the ongoing offensive explosion in the sport, but lately the blast has been blinding. Of the 14 cumulative offensive statistical categories tracked annually by the NCAA, all-time records have been set in 10 of those categories since 2007.

We're coming off the second-highest scoring season in history (27.97 points per team). The record of 28.4 points was set in '07.

Records were set last season in:

- Yards per rush (4.32)
- Yards per play (5.61)
- Completion percentage (59.7 percent)

The average of 3.53 touchdowns per game was second only to 2007 as well, (3.55). The average-per-pass-attempt —

7.189 yards — was the highest in 12 years and second-highest in history.

Nobody should be surprised, then, that for the first time there wasn't at least one top 10 defense in the BCS title game. Not even close. Oregon was 34th nationally, making most of its big plays with a crew that was second nationally with 37 takeaways. Auburn was 60th overall.

The previous four SEC champs have finished in the top 10 in total defense. To be fair, the Tigers improved a lot in the final month of the season and their top-10 run defense could not be ignored.

The six-week layoff no doubt allowed defensive coordinators Nick Aliotti and Ted Roof time to zone in on Heisman winner Cam Newton (64 yards rushing, 41 below his average) and Oregon's LaMichael James, the nation's leading rusher (49 yards on 13 rushes).

But in a defensive struggle, it was a fitting cap to the season that one brilliant, unlikely offensive play may have been the difference.

Dyer somehow had kept his balance as Pleasant applied the hit, balancing himself with that left hand, essentially rolling over the defender. The kid who broke Bo Jackson's school freshman rushing record popped up — the rest of his body never touched the ground per official review — and completed that 37-yard run.

Shortly thereafter, Wes Byrum's chip-shot field goal gave Auburn its second national championship and first in 53 years, a fifth consecutive title for the SEC and a perfect ending to a growing trend.

Defense may win championships, but the biggest and game-deciding plays still belong to the offense. Rules have long favored the offense. Defenses are still trying to figure out how to match up with skill players in space in the zone-read spread offenses.

The game has even trended more toward basketball where one or two players can make a difference offensively. What would Auburn have been without Newton?

"If they didn't have Cam," said former Auburn assistant Bill Oliver, "I guarantee you, I think seven ballgames would be the very most they would win with (that) defense."

So what's ahead? More of the same. The nation's top eight in total offense — all quarterbacks — are returning. So are a

BCS MATCHUPS

The BCS National Championship Game heads to New Orleans for the fourth time. LSU has been on the four-year plan, winning the national title in its near-hometown in 2004 and 2008. Perhaps it will be a case of good things happening in threes for the Tigers.

Here's how *Lindy's* sees the biggest games shaking out this season:

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
MONDAY, JAN. 9
NEW ORLEANS, LA. * LOUISIANA SUPERDOME
BCS #1 VS. BCS #2
LINDY'S PICK: OKLAHOMA VS. ALABAMA

ROSE BOWL
MONDAY, JAN. 2
PASADENA, CALIF. * ROSE BOWL
BIG TEN #1 VS. PAC-12 #1
LINDY'S PICK: NEBRASKA VS. OREGON

SUGAR BOWL
MONDAY, JAN. 2
NEW ORLEANS, LA. * LOUISIANA SUPERDOME
SEC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: LSU VS. STANFORD

ORANGE BOWL
TUESDAY, JAN. 3
MIAMI GARDENS, FLA. * SUN LIFE STADIUM
ACC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: FLORIDA STATE VS. WEST VIRGINIA

FIESTA BOWL
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4
GLENDALE, ARIZ. * UNIV. OF PHOENIX STADIUM
BIG 12 #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: OKLAHOMA STATE VS. BOISE ST.

rash of offensive stars who could have gone early to the NFL (James, Stanford's Heisman finalist Andrew Luck, Oklahoma State's Biletnikoff Award-winner Justin Blackmon).

There isn't expected to be much slippage from Oregon (No. 1 at 47 points per game in 2010). Jimbo Fisher has assembled a group of impressive playmakers at Florida State.

"It's definitely hard," said Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, a defensive guy who has led the Sooners to four BCS title games. "You look at all the creative ways offenses at the college level use their personnel. That's what it gets down to. ... You get so much diversity in how people are moving the ball."

You have to know which way this is heading in 2011 and beyond.

We are left with these images: That night Pleasant had his head in his hands on the Oregon sideline, barely able to cope. Wallowing in the heartbreak of defeat, he had to be convinced by teammates to leave the field. Meanwhile, Dyer's rollover crash with the Oregon defender already had a name.

"How about 'Rolling Toomer's'? teammate Ryan Pugh said.

Let the points and the toilet paper pile up.

ARBITRARY, ERRATIC AND DOWNRIGHT CONFUSING

No rule change in college football will have a greater impact than the new taunting legislation.

Yep, the NCAA is getting tougher on taunting. Sounds reasonable. Who, really, is in favor of bad sportsmanship and showboating? (Put your hands down, you Miami Hurricanes from 20 years ago.)

So, the new rule goes like this: If a taunting violation comes during a play before a touchdown is scored — stuff like high-stepping or diving into the end zone for no apparent reason — then those points come off the board and it's a 15-yard penalty at the spot of the foul.

Previously, the points would count and the infraction would be marked off on the conversion attempt or the kickoff.

This is going to be one big mess, improving business only for sports-talk radio hosts.

We've learned this already: taunting to one official isn't always taunting to another. Now, this will be a rule, with greater consequences — game-altering consequences — that has no chance of being enforced with anything close to an acceptable human standard of equality.

Let's rewind to the bowl season ...

It's hard to forget the Pinstripe Bowl when Kansas State's Adrian Hilburn, following a 30-yard touchdown reception with 1:13 remaining, saluted some of his team's fans in Yankee Stadium. Flag. That cost his team 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Instead of being able to go for a tying two-point conversion from the 3-yard line, the Wildcats had to go from the 18. The pass was incomplete, and Syracuse held on to win 36-34. *Because of a salute?*

Elsewhere, in the Alamo Bowl, Oklahoma State wide receiver Justin Blackmon — with nary an Arizona Wildcat around for 20 yards — teasingly ran along the goal line for at least half the length of the field before a defender closed. Blackmon then figured it was time to dip across the goal line. No flag.

That play didn't much matter in the outcome, but it just goes to show that taunting is so completely in the eye of the beholder — often a judgment call and not a technical call. And the officials already have enough judgment calls to make without raising the stakes.

ADRIAN HILBURN

Photo by William Perlman/THE STAR-LEDGER via US PRESSWIRE

CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT

College football's tectonic plates are shifting again, although not as much as seemed likely last summer when the Pac-10 nearly plundered the Big 12.

Still, the ripples of change put several old faces in new places. Here's how it shakes out:

Pac-10

It's still weird to type Pac-12. Even weirder to say it. Is that how "old-timers" felt about the change from the Pac-8 to the Pac-10? We're just going to call this the 12-Pac, OK?

The league loses its full round-robin symmetry but gains a revenue-producing league championship game, which, in a college football twist, will be played at an on-campus site. The regular-season head-to-head winner between the division champs gets to be the host. If that doesn't apply, then the team with the higher BCS rating is the home team.

And bless Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott for giving us division names we can understand (assuming you can pass second-grade geography). With the addition of Utah from the Mountain West and Colorado from the Big 12, here are the new divisions:

SOUTH
Arizona
Arizona State
Colorado
UCLA
USC
Utah

NORTH
Cal
Oregon
Oregon State
Stanford
Washington
Washington State

Big Ten

The good ol' B1G. Can't say the Big Ten did as well with its branding as the Pac-10 — er, Pac-12 — did, and it will take most of us a little longer to figure out who are Legends and who are Leaders. (Division

names are expected to be re-evaluated by the league after the season. And, by the way, are the teams in the Legends not leaders? Are the Leaders not legends? Anyone? Anyone?)

Overall, though, can't argue with adding Nebraska to the league ... now watch the Cornhuskers win the first league championship game, which will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Clip and save:

LEGENDS

Iowa
Michigan
Michigan State
Minnesota
Nebraska
Northwestern

LEADERS

Illinois
Indiana
Ohio State
Penn State
Purdue
Wisconsin

Mountain West

The grand plan nearly came together — a league with newbie Boise State, BYU, Utah and TCU would be excellent — but the conference turned into a bit of a train station. And there are more arrivals and one departure after this season. BYU went independent and Utah went to the Pac-12. TCU is leaving for the Big East for the 2012 season, when the MWC adds Fresno State, Hawaii and Nevada from the WAC.

More to come to eventually make it a dozen? Perhaps, but in the meantime, this is an eight-team league in 2011.

WAC

The loss of Boise State drops the WAC to eight teams in 2011, and the league will have to reload in 2012 after losing three more schools. Texas State and Texas-San Antonio, each moving up from the lower-division Southland Conference, are on board. The conference will have to add at least one more.

THE MESS OF THE BCS

The BCS has grown accustomed to some level of criticism every year, but the entity that's effectively stonewalled a national championship playoff and propped up the bowl system has had perhaps its roughest year ever.

Despite a riveting title game between Oregon and Auburn, and despite a cash-infused, four-year partnership with ESPN with three years still to run, BCS defenders are holding the gates against a multi-front onslaught.

In no particular order, and ranked via no particular degree of potential damage, here is what Bill Hancock, the genial executive director of the BCS, is dealing with these days:

• A 276-page internal investigative report on the Fiesta Bowl that detailed excessive spending on bowl employees, politicians and business associates and culminated in the firing of the game's CEO, John Junker.

Perhaps no one was more identifiable on the bowl circuit than Junker, a 30-year Fiesta Bowl veteran who took the game from relative anonymity to royalty.

Junker was fired for his role in a scheme where Fiesta Bowl employees were prompted to make political contributions to friendly legislators, then were reimbursed with bonuses in the exact amount of the donations.

Junker admitted when questioned that the bowl's lavish spending was meant to win favor with power brokers who could secure helpful legislation, sweetheart business deals and ensure TV network contracts.

• Disclosure that the Orange Bowl hosted a three-day, four-night complimentary cruise to the Bahamas for 40 athletic directors and conference commissioners, plus their spouses. No business meetings were scheduled, but those on the cruise were entitled to a spa day and a trip to a private island. They were also given $100 pre-loaded cash cards upon boarding ship.

• Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan got a bit too chatty when five Ohio State players suspended five games for breaking NCAA rules were nevertheless permitted to play in the Sugar Bowl. Hoolahan admitted he lobbied to have the players eligible for the game in New Orleans. "I made the point that anything that could be done to preserve the integrity of this year's game, we would greatly appreciate," Hoolahan said.

The integrity of the game?

That was an interesting choice of words from a man who makes $607,500, working for a "non-profit" entity that donated nada to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

• Word that both Virginia Tech and Connecticut took financial baths on their respective trips to the Orange and Fiesta Bowls after being required to purchase 17,500 tickets apiece at face value. Connecticut lost a reported $1.6 million on its trip to Glendale and Tech lost more than $420,000 off its trip to Miami.

• Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff announced plans to file a federal anti-trust suit against the BCS as an "illegal monopoly" and promised he would be joined by the attorneys general from two other states.

HEISMAN WATCH

Why bother? We have a clear favorite. Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck is the obvious choice — epically talented with name-brand recognition and a team that looks like Top 10 timber. Try to beat that combination.

On the other hand ... why bother with a favorite?

The past two Heisman winners — Alabama running back Mark Ingram and Auburn quarterback Cam Newton — were basically unidentifiable as candidates from this great of a distance, and they made a mockery of all the preseason Heisman lists.

Still, we trudge on.

With Newton off to the NFL, this is the first time in the past three years that we have no chance of a repeat winner. As always, we're preferably looking for a quarterback on a team that has a chance to win double-digit games.

Consider: Since 2000, nine of the 11 Mr. Heismans have been quarterbacks. Their team's combined record at the end of the regular season: 102-9.

Picking the quarterback from the best team (or close to it) is a shoddy and lazy way to pick the most outstanding college football player in the United States ... but that's how the voters have trended for more than a decade.

HERE ARE THE PAST NINE QB WINNERS AND THEIR TEAM'S RECORD BEFORE THE BOWLS:

2000	Chris Weinke, Florida State	11-1
2001	Eric Crouch, Nebraska	11-1
2002	Carson Palmer, USC	10-2
2003	Jason White, Oklahoma	12-1
2004	Matt Leinart, USC	12-0
2006	Troy Smith, Ohio State	12-0
2007	Tim Tebow, Florida	9-3
2008	Sam Bradford, Oklahoma	12-1
2010	Cam Newton, Auburn	13-0

So, who will it be this year? Here are 10 candidates, keeping in mind that this isn't a list of "best players." It's more a ranking of how likely a player can fit the narrowing Heisman criteria.

1. Andrew Luck, QB, Stanford — Last year's Heisman runner-up; nation's most complete quarterback.

2. Landry Jones, QB, Oklahoma — Could approach 5,000 passing yards again for our preseason No. 1 team.

3. Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State — Should end up as college football's winningest quarterback, but did the hype peak last season?

4. LaMichael James, RB, Oregon — James gets the bulk of the headlines — deservedly so — in Oregon's "Blur" offense. Bonus points or demerits for neon socks?

5. Marcus Lattimore, RB, South Carolina — Only a sophomore ... but sophomores won in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

6. Brandon Weeden, QB, Oklahoma State — He'll have the right stats. If the Cowboys beat Oklahoma, he'll have the right team, too.

7. Aaron Murray, QB, Georgia — The SEC's best quarterback, and the Bulldogs have a sneaky-good feel about them this season.

8. Trent Richardson, RB, Alabama — It's his time to shine after 2009 Heisman winner Mark Ingram left early for the NFL.

9. Taylor Martinez, QB, Nebraska — Has to nail down the job first, but when he's good, he's really, really good.

10. Denard Robinson, QB, Michigan — If Michigan surprises, the multi-talented Robinson will be the talk of college football.

STANFORD QB ANDREW LUCK

Photo by Steve Bayer

QUICK SUCCESS ... OR QUICK HOOK

Last year in this very magazine, in this very Scoping the Nation section, we told you that if a coach can't have quick success at a traditional superpower, then he deserves to be fired.

Michigan and Rich Rodriguez proved our point.

Auburn and Gene Chizik further proved our point.

Rodriguez couldn't get it done in three seasons in Ann Arbor. That's long enough. Stop *hoping* it can happen and actually do something to make it happen. Is Brady Hoke the answer? Don't know, but it was the right call to hit the reset button.

As for Chizik, he continued a remarkable run of nearly new coaches to win the national championship. (It should be noted that Oregon's Chip Kelly would have fit the bill, too.)

Check out the past 11 BCS national champions:

Year	Team	Coach	Season
2000	Oklahoma	Bob Stoops	2
2001	Miami	Larry Coker	1
2002	Ohio State	Jim Tressel	2
2003	LSU	Nick Saban	4
2004	USC	Pete Carroll	4
2005	Texas	Mack Brown	8
2006	Florida	Urban Meyer	2
2007	LSU	Les Miles	3
2008	Florida	Urban Meyer	4
2009	Alabama	Nick Saban	3
2010	Auburn	Gene Chizik	2

Seven of the past 11 national champions have had a coach in his first, second or third year at the school. Only one coach — Mack Brown — had been at the school more than four years.

Which relatively new coach at a superpower — or relative superpower — can make a three-year or less breakthrough? Let's look:

Florida State, Jimbo Fisher (second year) — The state of Florida starts anew. Fisher has a year head start on Miami (Al Golden) and Florida (Will Muschamp). He zooms to the pole position as FSU accelerates toward its first ACC title since 2005.

Notre Dame, Brian Kelly (second year) — He dramatically changed the offense, the tempo and the program's culture in his first season. In his second year, everything should be second nature. Now, can he beat Navy?

USC, Lane Kiffin (second year) — With the ongoing NCAA sanctions and scholarship limitations, young Mr. Kiffin got thrown into the deep end of the pool. The Trojans have enough to compete in the inaugural, and weak, Pac-12 South, but anything other than treading water is probably too much to ask.

Tennessee, Derek Dooley (second year) — It's as one rival SEC coach told *Lindy's* Jimmy Hyams about the Vols: "They're headed in the right direction. But they're climbing out of a hole with rain soaked walls. If they put their foot on the wrong ledge, they'll slide back down, but it's not because of the current staff. The talent level is the lowest since the arrival of John Majors." That would be 1977.

Oregon, Chip Kelly (third year) — More championship runs in the near future. He's sizzling. WTD.

Washington, Steve Sarkisian (third year) — It had been so long since the Huskies had been to a bowl, it was hard to remember when they were actually good. Sark got U-Dub to the postseason for the first time since 2002 with a strong finish in 2010. The jump from respectability to Rose Bowl-ability is greater, though, especially without Jake Locker.

GENE CHIZIK

Photo by RD Moore

UCLA'S RICK NEUHEISEL

Photo by Mark J. Rebilas-US PRESSWIRE

FIVE HOT SEAT COACHES

1. Mark Richt, Georgia — He's a winner, but you know how it works: What have you done for me lately? With a strong finish to the 2010 regular season, and with QB Aaron Murray and a stellar recruiting class led by Isaiah Crowell, Richt is set to challenge in the SEC East. PREDICTION: He'll win right now.

2. Rick Neuheisel, UCLA — He's had no luck with quarterbacks for three years, changed the offense last season and jettisoned coordinator Norm Chow in a staff shake-up after last season. Not the kind of stability that was promised when the Bruins — hate to bring this up again, but we gotta — claimed the "Football Monopoly in Los Angeles is officially Over." PREDICTION: Bruins will struggle again to be a .500 team.

3. Paul Wulff, Washington State — No matter the paltry talent he inherited, 5-32 in three seasons is still 5-32 in three seasons. PREDICTION: Creeping ever closer to competitiveness, and led by tough-guy junior quarterback Jeff Tuel, the Cougs will show just enough progress to keep Wulff around.

4. Mike Locksley, New Mexico — A 2-22 record plus off-field messes. Do the math. PREDICTION: Change coming.

5. Houston Nutt, Ole Miss — In the punishing SEC East, the Rebels blinked and have even fallen behind state rival Mississippi State. PREDICTION: No mercy in the SEC.

COACHING CHANGES

So much for the domino theory.

Time was, when a big-time job came open in an elite football program with a proud tradition, someone would jump from a good job elsewhere to take a great job where they could win even bigger.

Those days appear to be over, if the top jobs that changed following the 2010 season are any indication.

Five years ago, would you have bet that Florida, Miami (Fla.) and Michigan would be in the market for a new head coach and the hires would be an assistant coach at Texas and the head guys at Temple and San Diego State?

You most certainly would not have bet that way, unless you were delusional or into donating your money to build a casino in Las Vegas.

So congratulations, Will Muschamp, Al Golden and Brady Hoke, for giving your brethren off the radar reason to hope that they, too, can play the Palace after working Peoria.

We'd also like to thank Pittsburgh for adding some stability to the coaching-change ranks. Twenty-two jobs changed hands in 2010, and it looked like only 21 were going to switch entering 2011 until Pitt hired Mike Haywood to replace Dave Wannstedt and then dumped him 16 days later, 25 hours after he was charged with domestic violence.

If counting the Pitt change as a two-fer, exactly half the 22 jobs that changed hands were in BCS conferences, including two at Stanford and Connecticut after their guys took them to a BCS game.

Arkansas State

Out: Steve Roberts | **In:** Hugh Freeze

Freeze is surely smarter than he was portrayed in "The Blind Side," where he was Michael Oher's high school coach in Memphis and used as a punch-line dope to help Sandra Bullock's Oscar candidacy. It would be interesting to see Sandra Bullock come out of the stands to give the Red Wolves a little help, but Freeze was the offensive coordinator at Arkansas State last year, so we're betting he's got this thing handled.

Ball State

Out: Stan Parrish | **In:** Steve Lembo

They've grown pretty impatient in Muncie after going 12-0 in the regular season in 2008. Parrish got only two years, and his 6-19 record wasn't good enough. Lembo comes from Elon in the FCS ranks, where he went 35-22 in five seasons with one playoff berth.

Colorado

Out: Dan Hawkins | **In:** Jon Embree

It's the Big 12, brother, so you can't lose your last 17 road games. That, and a 19-39 record did in Hawkins, who never had a winning season in five years after going 53-11 at Boise State. To excite the alums, Embree, a former Buffalo tight end, left his job as a Washington Redskins' assistant to come back to Boulder. His staff is heavy on former Colorado players. Too bad none of them can suit up.

Connecticut

Out: Randy Edsall | **In:** Paul Pasqualoni

The strangest departure of the offseason was followed by the strangest hire. Edsall had brought UConn from Division I-AA to the big time, culminating in a Big East title and trip to the Fiesta Bowl. When he left for Maryland, the Huskies turned to Pasqualoni, who has knocked around at small schools and as an NFL assistant since being fired at Syracuse in 2004.

Florida

Out: Urban Meyer | **In:** Will Muschamp

Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley is taking a measured chance with Muschamp, who was the head coach in-waiting at Texas. Sure, he has a stellar resume as a defensive coordinator — probably the hottest assistant coaching prospect in the country — but being a head coach is way different. And taking over for Meyer, who won two national titles, it puts Muschamp in a fish bowl full of Gators.

Indiana

Out: Bill Lynch | **In:** Kevin Wilson

Lynch guided the Hoosiers to their first bowl in 14 seasons in 2007, but he couldn't sustain the success the late Terry Heoppner built into the program. Wilson hopes to bring the same high-powered offense he coordinated at Oklahoma, but multiple staff defections after he thought he had his guys in place shows IU is only a stepping stone.

Kent State

Out: Doug Martin | **In:** Darrell Hazell

Hazell will never say, but you wonder if he wishes he had stayed at Ohio State. Jim Tressel's five-game suspension would have put Hazell in the spotlight as assistant head coach with a chance to get a better job than the one he took before Tressel's violations came to light. Kent was 25 games under .500 in seven seasons under Martin.

Louisiana

Out: Rickey Bustle | **In:** Mark Hudspeth

Hudspeth looks like an outstanding hire, given his 66-21 mark with five playoff appearances in seven years at Division II North Alabama. The past two years, he's been an offensive assistant at Mississippi State under Dan Mullen. Louisiana dumped Bustle after nine bowl-less seasons.

Maryland

Out: Ralph Friedgen | **In:** Randy Edsall

So much for Coach of the Year honors. Friedgen won them in the ACC, guiding

Maryland to its seventh bowl in 10 seasons after a 2-10 swoon in 2009. He got a pink slip and a $2 million buyout. After a flirtation with Mike Leach, Maryland stole Edsall away from Connecticut in the immediate aftermath of the Fiesta Bowl.

Miami

Out: Randy Shannon | **In:** Al Golden

So much for Golden waiting on the Penn State job when Joe Paterno retires. He jumped at the chance to take his recruiting talents to fertile South Florida. Whether Golden can satisfy all the factions and former players at Miami is debatable, particularly since his QB might be interception-prone Jacory Harris, with whom Shannon went down in flames.

Miami, Ohio

Out: Michael Haywood | **In:** Don Treadwell

Haywood's spectacular rise and fall is the stuff of Hollywood ... or at least the Lifetime Movie Network. From 1-11 to 9-4 in his only two seasons, after which he left for Pittsburgh, only to get fired 16 days later upon being charged with domestic violence. In comes Treadwell from Michigan State, where he ably filled in during Mark Dantonio's heart-attack-induced absence.

Michigan

Out: Rich Rodriguez | **In:** Brady Hoke

Rodriguez's 15-22 overall record and 6-18 Big Ten mark weren't cutting it, so Michigan dumped him and went back to the Bo Schembechler tree. Hoke comes from San Diego State, but he coached under Lloyd Carr at Michigan. Carr assisted for Schembechler and Gary Moeller. So Hoke is in the family, but Jim Harbaugh was the favored son Michigan couldn't lure back.

Minnesota

Out: Tim Brewster | **In:** Jerry Kill

Out with the used-car salesman, in with a guy who looks like the neighborhood butcher. Kill comes from Northern Illinois, where he went 23-16 with three bowl bids in three years. He also won last year at Minnesota, but that wasn't too hard against the bombastic Brewster. He was 15-30, including 0-10 in trophy games.

Northern Illinois

Out: Jerry Kill | **In:** Dave Doeren

Call it a payback of sorts. After losing its head coach to the Big Ten, Northern dipped into those ranks and plucked Doeren from his perch as defensive coordinator at Wisconsin. His stay won't be much longer than Kill's three seasons, if successful, and he'll get the chance to make a big splash Sept. 17 when the Badgers play NIU at Soldier Field.

North Texas

Out: Todd Dodge | **In:** Dan McCarney

Notre Dame could have told North Texas about the dangers of hiring a high school coach. Dodge was positively Gerry Faust-ian in his failure, going 6-37 after a 79-1 prep mark. McCarney is proven, having taken Iowa State to five bowl appearances and two bowl wins before leaving in 2006 when he was the Big 12's longest-tenured coach.

Pittsburgh

Out: Dave Wannstedt and Michael Haywood
In: Todd Graham

You knew Tulsa's win at Notre Dame was going to get Graham a better job somewhere. He brings an exciting offense that's been Top Five nationally three of the past four years. The only ticklish issue is that Graham might not have AD Steve Pederson's full support. He picked Haywood over Graham first, until Haywood's arrest forced a second hire.

San Diego State

Out: Brady Hoke | **In:** Rocky Long

Long moved up from defensive coordinator and has hopefully regained his enthusiasm for being a head coach. When he resigned at New Mexico after 11 seasons in 2008, he said he didn't see the Lobos winning a Mountain West title under his direction. He inherits a 9-4 team coming off its first bowl win since 1988.

Stanford

Out: Jim Harbaugh | **In:** David Shaw

It would be interesting to poll Stanford fans on who they'd rather have return, Jim Harbaugh or Andrew Luck. Harbaugh left for the San Francisco 49ers, but Luck's return should help Shaw succeed after moving up from offensive coordinator. Harbaugh took top assistants Vic Fangio and Greg Roman with him, which could hurt.

Temple

Out: Al Golden | **In:** Steve Addazio

It's doubtful Temple fans are as excited to have Addazio as Florida fans are to be rid of him. He took tons of heat as the Gators' offensive coordinator post-Tebow, and now takes over for Golden, who won 26 games the past four seasons at a place where winning half that many is the norm.

Tulsa

Out: Todd Graham | **In:** Bill Blankenship

The problem Tulsa has is getting successful coaches to stay. That may not be as big an issue with Blankenship, who left a successful high school job five years ago to become an assistant at his alma mater, and now moves up to succeed Graham. The continuity gives Tulsa a chance to maintain the success that's brought three 10-win seasons the last four years.

Vanderbilt

Out: Robbie Caldwell | **In:** James Franklin

The SEC's toughest job is all the tougher when you get it in mid-July after Bobby Johnson's unexpected retirement. Caldwell's 2-10 mark may not have been all him. He resigned and Vandy found Franklin, who had positioned himself to succeed Ralph Friedgen at Maryland before that went sour. Franklin has an offensive pedigree and a reputation as an outstanding recruiter.

TOP 12 NON-CONFERENCE GAMES

1. OREGON VS. LSU, SEPT. 3 (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)

Dive right in. An opening-weekend game that could decide who plays for the national title. Isn't college football grand? Who's crazier, Les Miles or Chip Kelly? Who's faster — Oregon's offense or LSU's defense? Who's tougher?

2. OKLAHOMA AT FLORIDA STATE, SEPT. 17

The preseason No. 1 Sooners have two weeks to prepare. So does FSU, really, after opening against Louisiana-Monroe and Charleston Southern. OU won 47-17 last season in Norman, but big turnarounds from one season to the next are not uncommon.

3. ARKANSAS VS. TEXAS A&M, OCT. 1 (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)

Both teams have top 10 talent and oodles of offense. The Aggies will be looking for a different result against an SEC team than they had in the Cotton Bowl, when they lost 41-24 to LSU.

4. ALABAMA AT PENN STATE SEPT. 10

Not sure the Nittany Lions can truly be competitive in this one, but just the mention of Alabama and Penn State in the same game gives us the warm fuzzies of the Bear Bryant-Joe Paterno matchups of yesteryear.

5. BOISE STATE VS. GEORGIA, SEPT. 3 (ATLANTA)

This game has turned into as much of a statement game — if not more — for the Dawgs as it is for the Broncos.

6. LSU AT WEST VIRGINIA, SEPT. 24

Sensing a pattern here? SEC chows down on its share of non-conference marshmallows, but credit the league for getting dressed up for some serious stepping out. Here, the Tigers take on dangerous QB Geno Smith and coordinator Dana Holgorsen's revved-up Mountaineers offense.

7. FLORIDA STATE AT FLORIDA, NOV. 26

The Seminoles broke a six-game losing streak to the Gators last season, winning 31-7. That's one for Jimbo Fisher, who gets a new foe: Will Muschamp.

8. OHIO STATE AT MIAMI, SEPT. 17

Whatever we do we won't call this a "Golden opportunity" for Miami. Just won't do it. But that new 'Canes coach might want to jump on the suspension-riddled Buckeyes and make a statement while the gettin' is good.

9. NOTRE DAME AT MICHIGAN, SEPT. 10

Amid all the history, victories, championships and legendary coaches between these teams, we present Brian Kelly and Brady Hoke. Which kind of makes this matchup all the more intriguing as the programs carve out new trails.

10. BYU AT TEXAS, SEPT. 10

This is the first real test for the Longhorns and their re-made coaching staff. The newly independent Cougars have a tough September.

11. AUBURN AT CLEMSON, SEPT. 17

Auburn plays host to Mississippi State a week earlier. This two-week stretch will reveal much about the defending national champs.

12. MISSOURI AT ARIZONA STATE, SEPT. 9

We slipped both teams into the backend of our Top 25 but are unconvinced about both. Each gets to make its case in a prime-time Friday night telecast.

OKLAHOMA VS. FSU

Photo by Bill Frakes /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

LSU VS. ALABAMA

TOP 12 CONFERENCE GAMES

1. LSU AT ALABAMA, NOV. 5

Les Miles and the Tigers stung Alabama last season, and this matchup figures to be even bigger. The SEC West seems like a coin flip until these guys play some big-boy football.

2. OHIO STATE AT NEBRASKA, OCT. 8

Love the newness of it — the teams haven't met since 1956 — and the value-added storyline with the Buckeyes' five suspended players eligible for the first time in 2011. Welcome to Lincoln.

3. OREGON AT STANFORD, NOV. 12

Andrew Luck has the best shot of anyone of stopping the Ducks from winning the Pac-12 North. He threw for 341 yards last season against Oregon ... too bad he needed 641 as the Ducks scored 52 points in the final three quarters.

4. OKLAHOMA AT OKLAHOMA STATE, DEC. 3

The Sooners have won eight in a row in the series, which would make it all the more sweet for the Cowboys to perhaps deny OU a shot at the national title while winning the Big 12 title at home.

5. TCU AT BOISE STATE, NOV. 12

These teams will meet in a conference game for the only time, presumably with the Mountain West title on the line. The Frogs and Broncs split close, low-scoring bowl games after the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

6. ALABAMA AT AUBURN, NOV. 26

What shape will Auburn be in at the end of an arduous schedule? Will the Tide need this game for the SEC West title? Can the teams somehow top last season's Iron Bowl comeback thriller?

7. OHIO STATE AT MICHIGAN, NOV. 26

Rich Rodriguez went 0-3 against Ohio State, losing by a combined 76 points. Brady Hoke can't be any worse in his first at-bat.

8. ARKANSAS AT ALABAMA, SEPT. 24

Really, all you have to do is pick any SEC West battle (non-Mississippi edition) and it could make this list. This early game begins to define the race.

9. SOUTH CAROLINA AT GEORGIA, SEPT. 10

There are our top picks in the SEC East, with the loser likely to have to play chase for much, or all, of the season.

10. OKLAHOMA VS. TEXAS, OCT. 8 (DALLAS)

The Longhorns rallied in the final 10 minutes to make last season's game close before fumbling away a final chance in a 28-20 loss in the Red River Rivalry.

11. WISCONSIN AT OHIO STATE, OCT. 29

The Badgers won last season's game and came out ahead in a three-way tiebreaker for the Rose Bowl. Winner here probably takes the Leaders division.

12. MIAMI AT FLORIDA STATE, NOV. 12

Florida State doesn't play Virginia Tech in the regular season, so this will have to do in terms of ACC representation on this list. It will be serious business for the Hurricanes, who can't fall too far behind in the state race.

SNEAK PEEK

As the first selection was made in the 2011 NFL Draft, our pals over at NFLDraftScout.com — whose work can also be found at CBSSports.com — had already sent us a list of the top 50 prospects for 2012. Underclassmen included.

No surprise at the top. Stanford's Andrew Luck, followed by Oklahoma's Landry Jones. Another underclass quarterback, USC's Matt Barkley, is in the Top 10, too.

The list will be a living, breathing thing, especially once the games begin, but it's always fun to call your shot a year in advance ... and then see how you did.

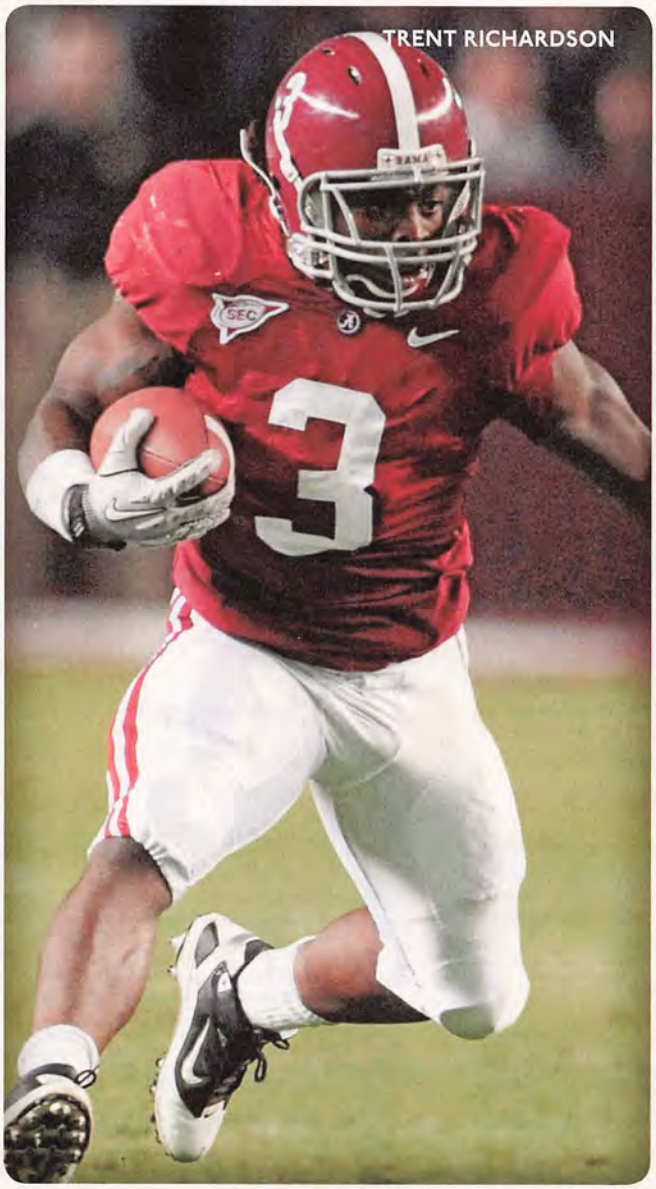
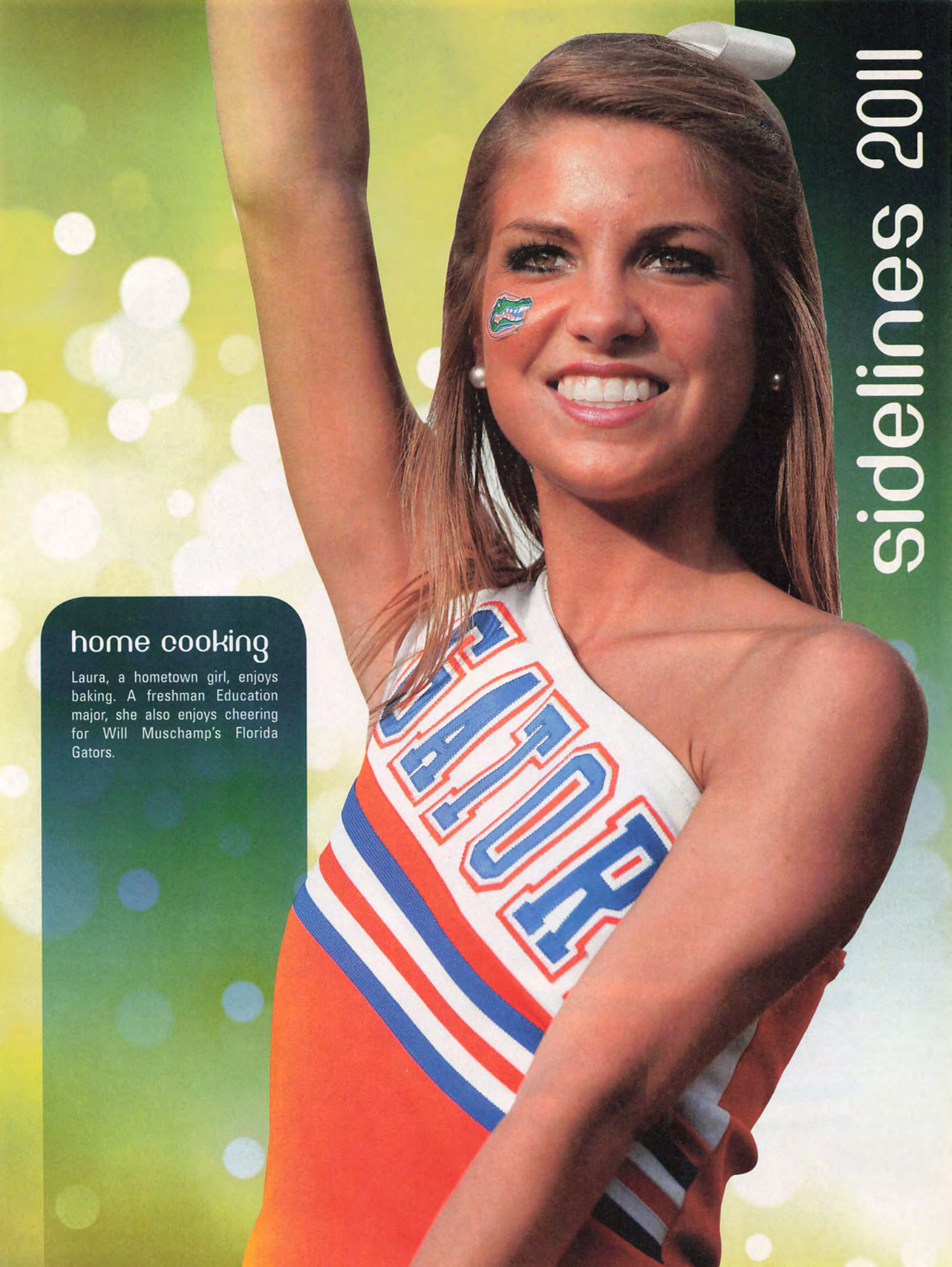


Photo by Joe Robbins

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	SCHOOL
1.	*Andrew Luck	QB	Stanford
2.	*Landry Jones	QB	Oklahoma
3.	*Jonathan Martin	OT	Stanford
4.	*Trent Richardson	RB	Alabama
5.	*Matt Kalil	OT	USC
6.	*Dre Kirkpatrick	CB	Alabama
7.	*Matt Barkley	QB	USC
8.	*Vontaze Burfict	ILB	Arizona State
9.	*Justin Blackmon	WR	Oklahoma State
10.	*Luke Kuechly	ILB	Boston College
11.	*Alshon Jeffrey	WR	South Carolina
12.	Alfonzo Dennard	CB	Nebraska
13.	*Marcus Forston	DT	Miami (FL)
14.	Quinton Coples	DE	North Carolina
15.	Chase Minnifield	CB	Virginia
16.	*Donte Paige-Moss	DE	North Carolina
17.	Michael Floyd	WR	Notre Dame
18.	Zach Brown	OLB	North Carolina
19.	Nate Potter	OT	Boise State
20.	Courtney Upshaw	ILB	Alabama
21.	*Knile Davis	RB	Arkansas
22.	Brandon Lindsey	DE	Pittsburgh
23.	*Cliff Harris	CB	Oregon
24.	Travis Lewis	OLB	Oklahoma
25.	*Robert Lester	FS	Alabama
26.	Jeff Fuller	WR	Texas A&M
27.	Jared Crick	DE	Nebraska
28.	*Manti Te'o	ILB	Notre Dame
29.	*Jerel Worthy	DT	Michigan State
30.	*Dont'a Hightower	ILB	Alabama
31.	*Brandon Jenkins	DE	Florida State
32.	*John Simon	DT	Ohio State
33.	*Stephon Gilmore	CB	South Carolina
34.	Ryan Broyles	WR	Oklahoma
35.	Donnie Fletcher	CB	Boston College
36.	Michael Egnew	TE	Missouri
37.	Kheeston Randall	DT	Texas
38.	*LaMichael James	RB	Oregon
39.	Andre Branch	DE	Clemson
40.	Mike Adams	OT	Ohio State
41.	Nick Foles	QB	Arizona
42.	Omar Bolden	CB	Arizona State
43.	Tydreke Powell	DT	North Carolina
44.	Matt Reynolds	OT	BYU
45.	Bruce Irvin	DE/OLB	West Virginia
46.	Coryell Judie	CB	Texas A&M
47.	Kelechi Osmele	OG	Iowa State
48.	Vinny Curry	DE	Marshall
49.	Mark Barron	SS	Alabama
50.	Dwight Jones	WR	North Carolina

*Underclassman



home cooking

Laura, a hometown girl, enjoys baking. A freshman Education major, she also enjoys cheering for Will Muschamp's Florida Gators.

1
2
VIRGINIA

3

1. she's quite cavalier

Whether coaching the youth swim team or just running for exercise, Jessica stays busy. But, the Government and English major at Virginia finds time to cheer on the Cavaliers.

2. long way home

Brooke came a long way from Illinois for classes in Starkville. It will be worth it for the freshman Kinesiology major if she can cheer her Bulldogs to the SEC title.

3. reigning royalty

Emilee, captain of the Auburn majorettes, is a junior Civil Engineering major from Athens, Ala. She was chosen Miss Auburn University 2011. It's easy to understand why.

4

4. tcu showgirl

"Cheering and dancing on the sidelines with my team" is the best part of Caroline's college experience. A Public Relations and Advertising major, she is a member of the TCU Showgirls dance team.

5. fondest desire

Desire' is a member of the University of Texas POM Squad. Her fondest desire for the Longhorns … never having another season like 2010.

5

6. cash reward

A senior Biological Sciences major from Carrollton, Ga., Casey cheers for the home state Bulldogs. She loves reading, going to movies … and her German shepherd, Cash.

7. hang ten!

Lyndsay, a senior majoring in Elementary Education and Psychology, would like nothing better than for her Nebraska Cornhuskers to win the Big Ten title in its first year in the league.

8. it comes naturally

Since she "grew up in Iowa City around the Hawkeyes," pulling for Iowa comes naturally for Rebecca. A senior cheerleader, she majors in Education with a minor in Dance.

9. come to the cabaret

Spencer, a senior Public Relations major from Gadsden, Ala., is a member of the Crimson Cabaret. She enjoys scuba diving and wants to attend law school.

10. no tide or tigers

Rene, a Birmingham native, is a senior cheerleader for the Georgia Bulldogs. A Broadcast News and Speech Communications major, she enjoys snow skiing and playing golf.

9
10
GEORG

11. all that glitters ...

... is Gold in Baton Rouge. Courtney, a 22-year old Biological Sciences major, is a three-year member of the LSU Tigers' Golden Girls.

12. colorful bruin

Melissa, an Environmental Science major, wears true blue and gold to cheer for her UCLA Bruins. Her favorite color is teal ... and she wants to see the aurora borealis.

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HOWARD BALZER, Lindy's pro football senior editor

Howard Balzer is in his 34th year covering professional football as a writer, editor and broadcaster. His pro football connection began in 1977 with College and Pro Football Newsweekly. Since then he has been a columnist for *The Sporting News, Pro Football Weekly, USA Today Sports Weekly* and The Sports Xchange. The Steelers-Packers Super Bowl was the 31st he has covered.

Balzer was an analyst on ESPN's initial broadcast of the NFL Draft in 1980, and stayed in that role through 1988. He has won six writing awards in the Professional Football Writers of America competition, and also won an Emmy for commentaries on KPLR-TV in 1986. He has provided football analysis for KTVI-TV and Fox Sports Midwest.

Currently, in addition to his work with The Sports Xchange, Balzer is the senior editor for *Lindy's* pro football magazine, a position he has held since 1993; talk-show host for Sirius NFL Radio and 101 ESPN Radio; and an editor-writer for *Gridiron Gateway* magazine.

DON BORST, Lindy's college football and basketball associate editor

Longtime college football writer Don Borst has spent much of the past three decades helping to make *Lindy's* college football and basketball annuals the best in the business. His career stops have included CBSSportsLine.com (managing editor for college sports), ESPN radio and TV, and *The Sporting News*. In his time as a print wretch at the *Tacoma News Tribune* and *Long Beach Press Telegram*, Don covered almost every imaginable sporting event (Olympics, World Series, Super Bowls, Final Fours, Rose Bowls, NBA Finals ... everything, it seems, but hockey). In addition to *Lindy's*, his insights and opinions are readily available during the football season on KJR SportsRadio in Seattle, and on Foxsports.com.

BEN COOK, Lindy's in-house writer/columnist/editor

Ben Cook is an award winning journalist who has been writing sports for over 40 years. During that time he has been an eyewitness to some of the biggest events in sports history. His writing has appeared in several national publications and newspapers. He has covered some of the biggest moments in sports history, as well as almost every major sporting event, including the World Series, the Super Bowl, the Final Four, the Orange Bowl, Sun Bowl, Hall of Fame Bowl, Liberty Bowl, Senior Bowl and 11 Sugar Bowls. He covered Paul Bryant's record-setting 315th coaching victory; Hank Aaron's 715th home run that broke Babe Ruth's record; and the Atlanta Braves victory in the sixth game to win the 1995 World Series over the Cleveland Indians.

He worked for the *Birmingham News*, the *Marietta Daily Journal* in Atlanta, the *SEC Sports Journal*, and the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, where the Scripps-Howard News Service circulated his work nationally. He also worked for WJOX Radio, where he was honored by the Associated Press for the Best Editorial in the state of Alabama three times. His work has appeared in newspapers all across the country, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News* and *Event* magazine.

KEN CROSS, Lindy's contributing writer/columnist

Ken has been a sports writer and sports broadcaster covering all major sports for several years. He has worked for ESPN Radio, Fox Sports Radio and Sporting News Radio covering college sports, the National Football League and the National Basketball Association. His work has appeared in *Lindy's* Sports Annuals and on lindyssports.com

He has served as a college basketball reporter covering the Pac-10 and Big 12 for Collegechalktalk.com with weekly columns. He also covers the Carolina Panthers, Carolina Hurricanes and the Charlotte Bobcats, the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference for the Sporting News Radio. He also contributes to the NBA Daily.

ANTHONY GIMINO, Lindy's college football senior editor

Anthony Gimino is the senior editor of *Lindy's* College Football Annuals. He has covered college football for more than two decades as the college football editor of CBS SportsLine.com, the college editor of The Sports Xchange, a beat writer for the *Arizona Daily Star* and a columnist for the *Tucson Citizen*.

ROLAND LAZENBY, Lindy's NBA senior editor

Roland Lazenby, *Lindy's* pro hoops editor for the past 17 years, has what you might call an in-depth relationship with sports.His biography of Jerry West — a Los Angeles Times best-seller — brought to light many revelations about the eccentricities and events that shaped the life of one of the NBA's most celebrated players.

His next book, "MJ: The Life, a biography of Michael Jordan" is scheduled to be published by Little, Brown in late 2012.

Lanzenby has written 50 sports books in his career. He has appeared live twice on ESPN's Sports Center, and has made appearances on CNN, Fox Newschannel, Fox's "Best Damn SportsShow," and ESPN's "Outside the Lines." Lazenby has also appeared on the"NBC Nightly News" and on a CBS Sports special on college basketball. Lazenby has taught college journalism for 20 years at Radford University and Virginia Tech

MATT LOWE, Lindy's in-house editor/writer/columnist

Matt has been working with *Lindy's* for six years, primarily as a writer, covering every sport. He supervises *Lindy's* web site, in addition to being an in-house editor. Matt has covered spring games, SEC Media Days, Auburn and Alabama national championships and has worked on projects pertaining to Super Bowls, World Series, the NCAA Tournament and BCS Championship Games. His work has also appeared on al.com and jsonline.com, which is the *Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel* online.

SHAWN O'NEAL, Lindy's college basketball senior editor

Shawn O'Neal, *Lindy's* College Basketball senior editor, has worked in newspapers around the Northwest since 1990 and served as both the NBA and national college basketball editor for CBS SportsLine.com. His professional focus has been college sports, but he has covered news, politics, the arts and written editorials and general opinion columns. His contributing work includes the Associated Press, *Washington Post* and EA Sports. He currently is on the journalism faculty at the University of Idaho, where he directs student media operations. He has been with *Lindy's* since 1998.

SHANE O'NEILL, Lindy's pro and fantasy baseball senior editor

Shane O'Neill, senior editor for *Lindy's* baseball and fantasy yearbooks since 2002, has been publishing, editing and writing about sports for over 30 years.

A graduate of Seattle University, where he played varsity tennis, O'Neill spent his early career in public relations and concert promotion. In 1981, he founded Preview Publishing (Bill Mazeroski's Baseball, Don Heinrich's Pro Preview, Dick Vitale's Basketball, etc.). He sold his interest in Preview in 1992 and founded Ultimate Sports Publishing a year later. The Ultimate Sports lineup included yearbooks covering the four major professional sports.

O'Neill was also a baseball correspondent for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* from 2005 through 2008.

NICK ROUSSO, Lindy's fantasy baseball editor

Nick Rousso is the editor of *Lindy's* Fantasy Baseball magazine. He was the former sports editor at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and has been the editor of leading sports annuals such as Dick Vitale's Basketball and Don Heinrich's College Football. Rousso also works for the Daily Racing Form as its Northwest correspondent and handicapper.

LYN SCARBROUGH, Lindy's in-house advertising sales/editor/writer

Lyn has been a member of *Lindy's* editorial staff for over 20 years, also serving as a contributing writer, as well as marketing director. A journalism graduate, he worked with *The Birmingham News* and has written for numerous publications.

Lyn was a columnist for *Links* magazine, as well as the basketball editor for *SouthSports*. He wrote for the *SEC Sports Journal* and other sports publications. Lyn is a member of the United States Basketball Writers and Football Writers Associations of America. He has covered everything from ice hockey and swimming to college football, basketball and baseball. He co-authored "The Big Bad Books of Sports" with Ben Cook.

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE

Sept. 3	NORTHWESTERN
Sept. 10	at UCF
Sept. 17	DUKE
Sept. 24	MASSACHUSETTS
Oct. 1	WAKE FOREST
Oct. 8	at Clemson
Oct. 22	at Virginia Tech
Oct. 29	at Maryland
Nov. 3	FLORIDA STATE
Nov. 12	NC STATE
Nov. 19	at Notre Dame
Nov. 26	at Miami

CLEMSON

Sept. 3	TROY
Sept. 10	WOFFORD
Sept. 17	AUBURN
Sept. 24	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 1	at Virginia Tech
Oct. 8	BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 15	at Maryland
Oct. 22	NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 29	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 12	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 19	at NC State
Nov. 26	at South Carolina

DUKE

Sept. 3	RICHMOND
Sept. 10	STANFORD
Sept. 17	at Boston College
Sept. 24	TULANE
Oct. 1	at FIU
Oct. 15	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 22	WAKE FOREST
Oct. 29	VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 5	at Miami
Nov. 12	at Virginia
Nov. 19	GEORGIA TECH
Nov. 26	at North Carolina

FLORIDA STATE

Sept. 3	ULM
Sept. 10	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Sept. 17	OKLAHOMA
Sept. 24	at Clemson
Oct. 8	at Wake Forest
Oct. 15	at Duke
Oct. 22	MARYLAND
Oct. 29	NC STATE
Nov. 3	at Boston College
Nov. 12	MIAMI
Nov. 19	VIRGINIA
Nov. 26	at Florida

GEORGIA TECH

Sept. 1	WESTERN CAROLINA
Sept. 10	at Middle Tennessee State
Sept. 17	KANSAS
Sept. 24	NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 1	at NC State
Oct. 8	MARYLAND
Oct. 15	at Virginia
Oct. 22	at Miami
Oct. 29	Clemson
Nov. 10	VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 19	at Duke
Nov. 26	GEORGIA

MARYLAND

Sept. 5	MIAMI
Sept. 17	WEST VIRGINIA
Sept. 24	TEMPLE
Oct. 1	TOWSON
Oct. 8	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 15	CLEMSON
Oct. 22	at Florida State
Oct. 29	BOSTON COLLEGE
Nov. 5	VIRGINIA
Nov. 12	vs Notre Dame (FedEx Field)
Nov. 19	at Wake Forest
Nov. 26	at NC State

MIAMI

Sept. 5	at Maryland
Sept. 17	OHIO STATE
Sept. 24	KANSAS STATE
Oct. 1	BETHUNE COOKMAN
Oct. 8	at Virginia Tech
Oct. 15	at North Carolina
Oct. 22	GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 27	VIRGINIA
Nov. 5	DUKE
Nov. 12	at Florida State
Nov. 19	at South Florida
Nov. 26	BOSTON COLLEGE

NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 3	JAMES MADISON
Sept. 10	RUTGERS
Sept. 17	VIRGINIA
Sept. 24	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 1	at East Carolina
Oct. 8	LOUISVILLE
Oct. 15	MIAMI
Oct. 22	at Clemson
Oct. 29	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 5	at NC State
Nov. 17	at Virginia Tech
Nov. 26	DUKE

NC STATE

Sept. 3	LIBERTY
Sept. 10	at Wake Forest
Sept. 17	SOUTH ALABAMA
Sept. 22	at Cincinnati
Oct. 1	GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 8	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 22	at Virginia
Oct. 29	at Florida State
Nov. 5	NORTH CAROLINA
Nov. 12	at Boston College
Nov. 19	CLEMSON
Nov. 26	MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

Sept. 3	WILLIAM & MARY
Sept. 10	at Indiana
Sept. 17	at North Carolina
Sept. 24	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Oct. 1	IDAHO
Oct. 15	GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 22	NC STATE
Oct. 27	at Miami
Nov. 5	at Maryland
Nov. 12	DUKE
Nov. 19	at Florida State
Nov. 26	VIRGINIA TECH

VIRGINIA TECH

Sept. 3	APPALACHIAN STATE
Sept. 10	at East Carolina
Sept. 17	ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 24	at Marshall
Oct. 1	CLEMSON
Oct. 8	MIAMI
Oct. 15	at Wake Forest
Oct. 22	BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 29	at Duke
Nov. 10	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 17	NORTH CAROLINA
Nov. 26	at Virginia

WAKE FOREST

Sept. 3	at Syracuse
Sept. 10	NC STATE
Sept. 17	GARDNER-WEBB
Oct. 1	at Boston College
Oct. 8	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 15	VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 22	at Duke
Oct. 29	at North Carolina
Nov. 5	NOTRE DAME
Nov. 12	at Clemson
Nov. 19	MARYLAND
Nov. 26	VANDERBILT

BIG EAST

CINCINNATI

Sept. 1	AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 10	at Tennessee
Sept. 17	AKRON
Sept. 22	NC STATE
Oct. 1	at Miami (OH)
Oct. 15	LOUISVILLE
Oct. 22	at South Florida
Nov. 5	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 12	WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 19	at Rutgers
Nov. 26	at Syracuse
Dec. 3	CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT

Sept. 1	FORDHAM
Sept. 10	at Vanderbilt
Sept. 16	IOWA STATE
Sept. 24	at Buffalo
Oct. 1	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 8	at West Virginia
Oct. 15	SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 5	SYRACUSE
Nov. 19	LOUISVILLE
Nov. 26	RUTGERS
Dec. 3	at Cincinnati

LOUISVILLE

Sept. 1	MURRAY STATE
Sept. 9	FIU
Sept. 17	at Kentucky
Oct. 1	MARSHALL
Oct. 8	at North Carolina
Oct. 15	at Cincinnati
Oct. 21	RUTGERS
Oct. 29	SYRACUSE
Nov. 5	at West Virginia
Nov. 12	PITTSBURGH
Nov. 19	at Connecticut
Nov. 25	at USF

PITTSBURGH

Sept. 3	BUFFALO
Sept. 10	MAINE
Sept. 17	at Iowa
Sept. 24	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 29	SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 8	at Rutgers
Oct. 15	UTAH
Oct. 26	CONNECTICUT
Nov. 5	CINCINNATI
Nov. 12	at Louisville
Nov. 25	at West Virginia
Dec. 3	SYRACUSE

RUTGERS

Sept. 1	NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
Sept. 10	at North Carolina
Sept. 24	OHIO
Oct. 1	at Syracuse
Oct. 8	PITTSBURGH
Oct. 15	NAVY
Oct. 21	at Louisville
Oct. 29	WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 5	SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 12	vs. Army (Yankee Stadium)
Nov. 19	CINCINNATI
Nov. 26	at Connecticut

SOUTH FLORIDA

Sept. 3	at Notre Dame
Sept. 10	BALL STATE
Sept. 17	FLORIDA A&M
Sept. 24	UTEP
Sept. 29	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 15	at Connecticut
Oct. 22	CINCINNATI
Nov. 5	at Rutgers
Nov. 11	at Syracuse
Nov. 19	MIAMI
Nov. 25	LOUISVILLE
Dec. 1	WEST VIRGINIA

SYRACUSE

Sept. 3	WAKE FOREST
Sept. 10	RHODE ISLAND
Sept. 17	at USC
Sept. 24	TOLEDO
Oct. 1	RUTGERS
Oct. 8	at Tulane
Oct. 22	WEST VIRGINIA
Oct. 29	at Louisville
Nov. 5	at Connecticut
Nov. 11	SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 26	CINCINNATI
Dec. 3	at Pittsburgh

WEST VIRGINIA

Sept. 3	MARSHALL
Sept. 10	NORFOLK STATE
Sept. 17	at Maryland
Sept. 24	LSU
Oct. 1	BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 8	CONNECTICUT
Oct. 22	at Syracuse
Oct. 29	at Rutgers
Nov. 5	LOUISVILLE
Nov. 12	at Cincinnati
Nov. 25	PITTSBURGH
Dec. 1	at South Florida

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS

Sept. 3	ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 10	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Sept. 17	ARIZONA STATE
Sept. 24	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 1	NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 8	at Indiana
Oct. 15	OHIO STATE
Oct. 22	at Purdue
Oct. 29	at Penn State
Nov. 12	MICHIGAN
Nov. 19	WISCONSIN
Nov. 26	at Minnesota

INDIANA

Sept. 3	vs. Ball State (Indianapolis)
Sept. 10	VIRGINIA
Sept. 17	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Sept. 24	at North Texas
Oct. 1	PENN STATE
Oct. 8	ILLINOIS
Oct. 15	at Wisconsin
Oct. 22	at Iowa
Oct. 29	NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 5	at Ohio State
Nov. 19	at Michigan State
Nov. 26	PURDUE

IOWA

Sept. 3	TENNESSEE TECH
Sept. 10	at Iowa State
Sept. 17	PITTSBURGH
Sept. 24	ULM
Oct. 8	at Penn State
Oct. 15	NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 22	INDIANA
Oct. 29	at Minnesota
Nov. 5	MICHIGAN
Nov. 12	MICHIGAN STATE
Nov. 19	at Purdue
Nov. 26	at Nebraska

MICHIGAN

Sept. 3	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 10	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 17	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 24	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 1	MINNESOTA
Oct. 8	at Northwestern
Oct. 15	at Michigan State
Oct. 29	PURDUE
Nov. 5	at Iowa
Nov. 12	at Illinois
Nov. 19	NEBRASKA
Nov. 26	OHIO STATE

MICHIGAN STATE

Sept. 3	YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Sept. 10	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Sept. 17	at Notre Dame
Sept. 24	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 1	at Ohio State
Oct. 15	MICHIGAN
Oct. 22	WISCONSIN
Oct. 29	at Nebraska
Nov. 5	MINNESOTA
Nov. 12	at Iowa
Nov. 19	INDIANA
Nov. 26	at Northwestern

MINNESOTA

Sept. 3	at USC
Sept. 10	NEW MEXICO STATE
Sept. 17	MIAMI (Ohio)
Sept. 24	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Oct. 1	at Michigan
Oct. 8	at Purdue
Oct. 22	NEBRASKA
Oct. 29	IOWA
Nov. 5	at Michigan State
Nov. 12	WISCONSIN
Nov. 19	at Northwestern
Nov. 26	ILLINOIS

NEBRASKA

Sept. 3	TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA
Sept. 10	FRESNO STATE
Sept. 17	WASHINGTON
Sept. 24	at Wyoming
Oct. 1	at Wisconsin
Oct. 8	OHIO STATE
Oct. 22	at Minnesota
Oct. 29	MICHIGAN STATE
Nov. 5	NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 12	at Penn State
Nov. 19	at Michigan
Nov. 25	IOWA

NORTHWESTERN

Sept. 3	at Boston College
Sept. 10	EASTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 17	at Army
Oct. 1	at Illinois
Oct. 8	MICHIGAN
Oct. 15	at Iowa
Oct. 22	PENN STATE
Oct. 29	at Indiana
Nov. 5	at Nebraska
Nov. 12	RICE
Nov. 19	MINNESOTA
Nov. 26	MICHIGAN STATE

OHIO STATE

Sept. 3	AKRON
Sept. 10	TOLEDO
Sept. 17	at Miami
Sept. 24	COLORADO
Oct. 1	MICHIGAN STATE
Oct. 8	at Nebraska
Oct. 15	at Illinois
Oct. 29	WISCONSIN
Nov. 5	INDIANA
Nov. 12	at Purdue
Nov. 19	PENN STATE
Nov. 26	at Michigan

PENN STATE

Sept. 3	INDIANA STATE
Sept. 10	ALABAMA
Sept. 17	at Temple
Sept. 24	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 1	at Indiana
Oct. 8	IOWA
Oct. 15	PURDUE
Oct. 22	at Northwestern
Oct. 29	ILLINOIS
Nov. 12	NEBRASKA
Nov. 19	at Ohio State
Nov. 26	at Wisconsin

PURDUE

Sept. 3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
Sept. 10	at Rice
Sept. 17	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Oct. 1	NOTRE DAME
Oct. 8	MINNESOTA
Oct. 15	at Penn State
Oct. 22	ILLINOIS
Oct. 29	at Michigan
Nov. 5	at Wisconsin
Nov. 12	OHIO STATE
Nov. 19	IOWA
Nov. 26	at Indiana

WISCONSIN

Sept. 3	UNLV
Sept. 10	OREGON STATE
Sept. 17	vs. Northern Illinois (Soldier Field)
Sept. 24	SOUTH DAKOTA
Oct. 1	NEBRASKA
Oct. 15	INDIANA
Oct. 22	at Michigan State
Oct. 29	at Ohio State
Nov. 5	PURDUE
Nov. 12	at Minnesota
Nov. 19	at Illinois
Nov. 26	PENN STATE

BIG 12

BAYLOR

Sept. 2	TCU
Sept. 17	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Sept. 24	RICE
Oct. 1	at Kansas State
Oct. 8	IOWA STATE
Oct. 15	at Texas A&M
Oct. 29	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 5	MISSOURI
Nov. 12	at Kansas
Nov. 19	OKLAHOMA
Nov. 26	vs. Texas Tech (Arlington)
Dec. 3	TEXAS

IOWA STATE

Sept. 3	NORTHERN IOWA
Sept. 10	IOWA
Sept. 16	at Connecticut
Oct. 1	TEXAS
Oct. 8	at Baylor
Oct. 15	at Missouri
Oct. 22	TEXAS A&M
Oct. 29	at Texas Tech
Nov. 5	KANSAS
Nov. 12	at Oklahoma
Nov. 19	OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 26	at Kansas State

KANSAS

Sept. 3	McNEESE STATE
Sept. 10	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 17	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 1	TEXAS TECH
Oct. 8	at Oklahoma State
Oct. 15	OKLAHOMA
Oct. 22	KANSAS STATE
Oct. 29	at Texas
Nov. 5	at Iowa State
Nov. 12	BAYLOR
Nov. 19	at Texas A&M
Nov. 26	vs. Missouri (Kansas City)

KANSAS STATE

Sept. 3	EASTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 17	KENT STATE
Sept. 24	at Miami
Oct. 1	BAYLOR
Oct. 8	MISSOURI
Oct. 15	at Texas Tech
Oct. 22	at Kansas
Oct. 29	OKLAHOMA
Nov. 5	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 12	TEXAS A&M
Nov. 19	at Texas
Nov. 26	IOWA STATE

MISSOURI

Sept. 3	MIAMI (OH)
Sept. 10	at Arizona State
Sept. 17	WESTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 24	at Oklahoma
Oct. 8	at Kansas State
Oct. 15	IOWA STATE
Oct. 22	OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 29	at Texas A&M
Nov. 5	at Baylor
Nov. 12	TEXAS
Nov. 19	TEXAS TECH
Nov. 26	vs. Kansas (Kansas City)

OKLAHOMA

Sept. 17	at Florida State
Sept. 24	MISSOURI
Oct. 1	BALL STATE
Oct. 5	vs. Texas (Dallas)
Oct. 15	at Kansas
Oct. 22	TEXAS TECH
Oct. 29	at Kansas State
Nov. 5	TEXAS A&M
Nov. 12	IOWA STATE
Nov. 19	at Baylor
Dec. 3	at Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA STATE

Sept. 3	LOUISIANA
Sept. 8	ARIZONA
Sept. 17	at Tulsa
Sept. 24	at Texas A&M
Oct. 8	KANSAS
Oct. 15	at Texas
Oct. 22	at Missouri
Oct. 29	BAYLOR
Nov. 5	KANSAS STATE
Nov. 12	at Texas Tech
Nov. 19	at Iowa State
Nov. 26	OKLAHOMA

TEXAS

Sept. 3	RICE
Sept. 10	BYU
Sept. 17	at UCLA

Wrangler

NATIONAL SCHEDULES

Oct. 1	at Iowa State
Oct. 8	vs. Oklahoma (Dallas)
Oct. 15	OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 29	KANSAS
Nov. 5	TEXAS TECH
Nov. 12	at Missouri
Nov. 19	KANSAS STATE
Nov. 24	at Texas A&M
Dec. 3	at Baylor

TEXAS A&M

Sept. 3	SMU
Sept. 17	IDAHO
Sept. 24	OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 1	vs. Arkansas (Arlington)
Oct. 8	at Texas Tech
Oct. 15	BAYLOR
Oct. 22	at Iowa State
Oct. 29	MISSOURI
Nov. 5	at Oklahoma
Nov. 12	at Kansas State
Nov. 19	KANSAS
Nov. 24	TEXAS

TEXAS TECH

Sept. 3	TEXAS STATE
Sept. 17	at New Mexico
Sept. 24	NEVADA
Oct. 1	at Kansas
Oct. 8	TEXAS A&M
Oct. 15	KANSAS STATE
Oct. 22	at Oklahoma
Oct. 29	IOWA STATE
Nov. 5	at Texas
Nov. 12	OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 19	at Missouri
Nov. 26	vs. Baylor (Arlington)

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA

Sept. 3	vs. South Carolina (Charlotte)
Sept. 10	VIRGINIA TECH
Sept. 24	UAB
Oct. 1	NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 8	at Houston
Oct. 15	at Memphis
Oct. 22	at Navy
Oct. 29	TULANE
Nov. 5	SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 12	at UTEP
Nov. 19	UCF
Nov. 26	at Marshall

HOUSTON

Sept. 3	UCLA
Sept. 10	at North Texas
Sept. 17	at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 24	GEORGIA STATE
Oct. 1	at UTEP
Oct. 8	EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 22	MARSHALL
Oct. 29	RICE
Nov. 5	at UAB
Nov. 12	at Tulane
Nov. 19	SMU
Nov. 26	at Tulsa

MARSHALL

Sept. 3	at West Virginia
Sept. 10	SOUTHERN MISS
Sept. 17	at Ohio
Sept. 24	VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 1	at Louisville
Oct. 8	at UCF
Oct. 15	RICE
Oct. 22	at Houston
Oct. 29	UAB
Nov. 12	at Tulsa
Nov. 19	at Memphis
Nov. 26	EAST CAROLINA

MEMPHIS

Sept. 1	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 10	at Arkansas State
Sept. 17	AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 24	SMU
Oct. 1	at Middle Tennessee State
Oct. 8	at Rice
Oct. 15	EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 22	at Tulane
Oct. 29	at UCF
Nov. 12	UAB
Nov. 19	MARSHALL
Nov. 26	at Southern Miss

RICE

Sept. 3	at Texas
Sept. 10	PURDUE
Sept. 17	at Baylor
Sept. 24	at Southern Miss
Oct. 1	MEMPHIS
Oct. 8	at Marshall
Oct. 15	TULSA
Oct. 22	at Houston
Nov. 5	UTEP
Nov. 12	at Northwestern
Nov. 19	TULANE
Nov. 26	at SMU

SMU

Sept. 3	at Texas A&M
Sept. 10	UTEP
Sept. 17	NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 24	at Memphis
Oct. 1	at TCU
Oct. 15	UCF
Oct. 22	at Southern Miss
Oct. 29	at Tulsa
Nov. 5	TULANE
Nov. 12	NAVY
Nov. 19	at Houston
Nov. 26	RICE

SOUTHERN MISS

Sept. 3	LOUISIANA TECH
Sept. 10	at Marshall
Sept. 17	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Sept. 24	at Virginia
Oct. 1	RICE
Oct. 8	at Navy
Oct. 22	SMU
Oct. 29	at UTEP
Nov. 5	at East Carolina
Nov. 12	UCF
Nov. 19	at UAB
Nov. 26	MEMPHIS

TULANE

Sept. 3	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Sept. 10	TULSA
Sept. 17	at UAB
Sept. 24	at Duke
Oct. 1	at Army
Oct. 8	SYRACUSE
Oct. 15	UTEP
Oct. 22	MEMPHIS
Oct. 29	at East Carolina
Nov. 5	at SMU
Nov. 12	HOUSTON
Nov. 19	at Rice
Nov. 26	at Hawaii

TULSA

Sept. 3	at Oklahoma
Sept. 10	at Tulane
Sept. 17	OKLAHOMA STATE
Sept. 24	at Boise State
Oct. 1	NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 15	UAB
Oct. 22	at Rice
Oct. 29	SMU
Nov. 5	at UCF
Nov. 12	MARSHALL
Nov. 19	at UTEP
Nov. 26	Houston

UAB

Sept. 10	at Florida
Sept. 17	Tulane
Sept. 24	at East Carolina
Oct. 1	at Troy
Oct. 8	Mississippi State
Oct. 15	at Tulsa
Oct. 22	UCF
Oct. 29	at Marshall
Nov. 5	Houston
Nov. 12	at Memphis
Nov. 19	Southern Miss
Nov. 26	at Florida Atlantic

UCF

Sept. 3	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Sept. 10	BOSTON COLLEGE
Sept. 17	at Florida International
Sept. 23	at BYU
Oct. 8	MARSHALL
Oct. 15	at SMU
Oct. 22	at UAB
Oct. 29	MEMPHIS
Nov. 5	TULSA
Nov. 12	at Southern Miss
Nov. 19	at East Carolina
Nov. 26	UTEP

UTEP

Sept. 3	STONY BROOK
Sept. 10	at SMU
Sept. 17	at New Mexico State
Sept. 24	at South Florida
Oct. 1	HOUSTON
Oct. 15	at Tulane
Oct. 22	COLORADO STATE
Oct. 29	SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 5	at Rice
Nov. 12	EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 19	TULSA
Nov. 26	at UCF

1-A INDEPENDENTS

ARMY

Sept. 3	at Northern Illinois
Sept. 10	SAN DIEGO STATE
Sept. 17	NORTHWESTERN
Sept. 24	at Ball State
Oct. 1	TULANE
Oct. 8	at Miami (OH)
Oct. 22	at Vanderbilt
Oct. 29	FORDHAM
Nov. 5	at Air Force
Nov. 12	vs. Rutgers (Yankee Stadium)
Nov. 19	at Temple
Dec. 10	vs. Navy (FedEx Field)

BYU

Sept. 3	at Ole Miss
Sept. 10	at Texas
Sept. 17	UTAH
Sept. 23	UCF
Sept. 30	UTAH STATE
Oct. 8	SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 15	at Oregon State
Oct. 22	IDAHO STATE
Oct. 28	vs. TCU
Nov. 12	IDAHO
Nov. 19	NEW MEXICO STATE
Dec. 3	at Hawaii

NAVY

Sept. 3	DELAWARE
Sept. 10	at Western Kentucky
Sept. 17	at South Carolina
Oct. 1	AIR FORCE
Oct. 8	SOUTHERN MISS
Oct. 15	at Rutgers
Oct. 22	EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 29	at Notre Dame
Nov. 5	TROY
Nov. 12	at SMU
Nov. 19	at San Jose State
Dec. 10	vs. Army (Fed ExField)

NOTRE DAME

Sept. 3	vs. USF
Sept. 10	at Michigan
Sept. 17	MICHIGAN STATE
Sept. 24	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 1	at Purdue
Oct. 8	AIR FORCE
Oct. 22	USC
Oct. 29	NAVY
Nov. 5	at Wake Forest
Nov. 12	vs. Maryland (Fed ExField)
Nov. 19	BOSTON COLLEGE
Nov. 26	at Stanford

MAC

AKRON

Sept. 3	at Ohio State
Sept. 10	TEMPLE
Sept. 17	at Cincinnati
Sept. 24	VMI
Oct. 1	at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 8	FIU
Oct. 22	OHIO
Oct. 29	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Nov. 3	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 12	KENT STATE
Nov. 19	at Buffalo
Nov. 25	at Western Michigan

BALL STATE

Sept. 3	vs. Indiana (Indianapolis)
Sept. 10	at South Florida
Sept. 17	BUFFALO
Sept. 24	ARMY
Oct. 1	at Oklahoma
Oct. 8	TEMPLE
Oct. 15	at Ohio
Oct. 22	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 29	at Western Michigan
Nov. 5	at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 15	at Northern Illinois
Nov. 25	TOLEDO

BOWLING GREEN

Sept. 1	at Idaho
Sept. 10	MORGAN STATE
Sept. 17	WYOMING
Sept. 24	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 1	at West Virginia
Oct. 8	at Western Michigan
Oct. 15	TOLEDO
Oct. 22	TEMPLE
Oct. 29	at Kent State
Nov. 8	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 16	OHIO
Nov. 25	at Buffalo

BUFFALO

Sept. 3	at Pittsburgh
Sept. 10	STONY BROOK
Sept. 17	at Ball State
Sept. 24	CONNECTICUT
Oct. 1	at Tennessee
Oct. 8	OHIO
Oct. 15	at Temple
Oct. 22	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 29	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 12	at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 19	AKRON
Nov. 25	BOWLING GREEN

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Sept. 1	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Sept. 10	at Kentucky
Sept. 17	at Western Michigan
Sept. 24	at Michigan State
Oct. 1	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 8	at North Carolina State
Oct. 15	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 22	at Ball State
Oct. 29	at Akron
Nov. 4	at Kent State
Nov. 10	OHIO
Nov. 18	TOLEDO

EASTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 3	HOWARD
Sept. 10	ALABAMA STATE
Sept. 17	at Michigan
Sept. 24	at Penn State
Oct. 1	AKRON
Oct. 8	at Toledo
Oct. 15	at Central Michigan
Oct. 22	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 5	BALL STATE
Nov. 12	BUFFALO
Nov. 19	at Kent State
Nov. 25	at Northern Illinois

KENT STATE

Sept. 3	at Alabama
Sept. 10	LOUISIANA
Sept. 17	at Kansas State
Sept. 24	SOUTH ALABAMA
Oct. 1	at Ohio
Oct. 8	at Northern Illinois
Oct. 15	MIAMI
Oct. 29	BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 4	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Nov. 12	at Akron
Nov. 19	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 25	at Temple

MIAMI (OHIO)

Sept. 3	at Missouri
Sept. 17	at Minnesota
Sept. 24	BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 1	CINCINNATI
Oct. 8	ARMY
Oct. 15	at Kent State
Oct. 29	at Toledo
Sept. 17	BUFFALO
Nov. 3	AKRON
Nov. 9	at Temple
Nov. 16	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 22	at Ohio

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 3	ARMY
Sept. 10	at Kansas
Sept. 17	vs. Wisconsin (Soldier Field)
Sept. 24	CAL POLY
Oct. 1	at Central Michigan
Oct. 8	KENT STATE
Oct. 15	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 22	at Buffalo
Nov. 1	at Toledo
Nov. 8	at Bowling Green
Nov. 15	BALL STATE
Nov. 25	EASTERN MICHIGAN

OHIO

Sept. 3	at New Mexico State
Sept. 10	GARDNER-WEBB
Sept. 17	MARSHALL
Sept. 24	at Rutgers
Oct. 1	KENT STATE
Oct. 8	at Buffalo
Oct. 15	BALL STATE
Oct. 22	at Akron
Nov. 2	TEMPLE
Nov. 10	at Central Michigan
Nov. 16	at Bowling Green
Nov. 22	MIAMI (OH)

TEMPLE

Sept. 1	VILLANOVA
Sept. 10	at Akron
Sept. 17	PENN STATE
Sept. 24	at Maryland
Oct. 1	TOLEDO
Oct. 8	at Ball State
Oct. 15	BUFFALO
Oct. 22	at Bowling Green
Nov. 2	at Ohio
Nov. 9	MIAMI (Ohio)
Nov. 19	ARMY
Nov. 25	KENT STATE

TOLEDO

Sept. 1	NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sept. 10	at Ohio State
Sept. 17	BOISE STATE
Sept. 24	at Syracuse
Oct. 1	at Temple
Oct. 8	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 15	at Bowling Green
Oct. 22	MIAMI
Nov. 1	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 8	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 18	at Central Michigan
Nov. 25	at Ball State

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 3	at Michigan
Sept. 10	NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 17	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 24	at Illinois
Oct. 1	at Connecticut
Oct. 8	BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 15	at Northern Illinois
Oct. 22	at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 29	BALL STATE
Nov. 8	at Toledo
Nov. 16	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 25	AKRON

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE

Sept. 3	SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 10	TCU
Sept. 24	TENNESSEE STATE
Oct. 1	at Navy
Oct. 8	at Notre Dame
Oct. 15	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 22	at Boise State
Oct. 29	at New Mexico
Nov. 5	ARMY
Nov. 12	WYOMING
Nov. 19	UNLV
Nov. 26	at Colorado State

BOISE STATE

Sept. 3	vs. Georgia (Atlanta)
Sept. 17	at Toledo
Sept. 24	TULSA
Oct. 1	NEVADA
Oct. 8	at Fresno State
Oct. 15	at Colorado State
Oct. 22	AIR FORCE
Nov. 5	at UNLV
Nov. 12	TCU
Nov. 19	at San Diego State
Nov. 26	WYOMING
Dec. 3	NEW MEXICO

COLORADO STATE

Sept. 3	at New Mexico
Sept. 10	NORTHERN COLORADO
Sept. 17	vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 24	at Utah State
Oct. 1	SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 15	BOISE STATE
Oct. 22	at UTEP
Oct. 29	at UNLV
Nov. 12	SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 19	at TCU
Nov. 26	AIR FORCE
Dec. 3	WYOMING

NEW MEXICO

Sept. 3	COLORADO STATE
Sept. 10	vs. Arkansas (Little Rock)
Sept. 17	TEXAS TECH
Sept. 24	SAM HOUSTON STATE
Oct. 1	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 15	at Nevada
Oct. 22	at TCU
Oct. 29	AIR FORCE
Nov. 5	at San Diego State
Nov. 12	UNLV
Nov. 19	at Wyoming
Dec. 3	at Boise State

SAN DIEGO STATE

Sept. 3	CAL POLY
Sept. 10	at Army
Sept. 17	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 24	at Michigan
Oct. 8	TCU
Oct. 13	at Air Force
Oct. 29	WYOMING
Nov. 5	NEW MEXICO
Nov. 12	at Colorado State
Nov. 19	BOISE STATE
Nov. 26	at UNLV
Dec. 3	FRESNO STATE

TCU

Sept. 3	at Baylor
Sept. 10	at Air Force
Sept. 17	ULM
Sept. 24	PORTLAND STATE
Oct. 1	SMU
Oct. 8	at San Diego State
Oct. 22	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 28	vs. BYU
Nov. 5	at Wyoming
Nov. 12	at Boise State
Nov. 19	COLORADO STATE
Dec. 3	UNLV

UNLV

Sept. 3	at Wisconsin
Sept. 10	at Washington State
Sept. 17	HAWAII
Sept. 24	SOUTHERN UTAH
Oct. 8	at Nevada
Oct. 15	at Wyoming
Oct. 29	COLORADO STATE
Nov. 5	BOISE STATE
Nov. 12	at New Mexico
Nov. 19	at Air Force
Nov. 26	SAN DIEGO STATE
Dec. 3	at TCU

WYOMING

Sept. 3	WEBER STATE
Sept. 10	TEXAS STATE
Sept. 17	at Bowling Green
Sept. 24	NEBRASKA
Oct. 8	at Utah State
Oct. 15	UNLV
Oct. 29	at San Diego State
Nov. 5	TCU
Nov. 12	at Air Force
Nov. 19	NEW MEXICO
Nov. 26	at Boise State
Dec. 3	at Colorado State

PAC-12

ARIZONA

Sept. 3	NORTHERN ARIZONA
Sept. 8	at Oklahoma State
Sept. 17	STANFORD
Sept. 24	OREGON
Oct. 1	at USC
Oct. 8	at Oregon State
Oct. 20	UCLA
Oct. 29	at Washington
Nov. 5	UTAH
Nov. 12	at Colorado
Nov. 19	at Arizona State
Nov. 26	LOUISIANA

Wrangler

NATIONAL SCHEDULES

ARIZONA STATE

Sept. 1	UC DAVIS
Sept. 9	MISSOURI
Sept. 17	at Illinois
Sept. 24	USC
Oct. 1	OREGON STATE
Oct. 8	at Utah
Oct. 15	at Oregon
Oct. 29	COLORADO
Nov. 5	at UCLA
Nov. 12	at Washington State
Nov. 19	ARIZONA
Nov. 26	CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA

Sept. 3	vs. Fresno State (San Francisco)
Sept. 10	at Colorado
Sept. 17	PRESBYTERIAN
Sept. 24	at Washington
Oct. 6	at Oregon
Oct. 13	USC
Oct. 22	UTAH
Oct. 29	at UCLA
Nov. 5	WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 12	OREGON STATE
Nov. 19	at Stanford
Nov. 26	at Arizona State

COLORADO

Sept. 3	at Hawaii
Sept. 10	CALIFORNIA
Sept. 17	vs. Colorado State (Denver)
Sept. 24	at Ohio State
Oct. 1	WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 8	at Stanford
Oct. 15	at Washington
Oct. 22	OREGON
Oct. 29	at Arizona State
Nov. 5	USC
Nov. 12	ARIZONA
Nov. 19	at UCLA
Nov. 26	at Utah

OREGON

Sept. 3	vs. LSU (Arlington)
Sept. 10	NEVADA
Sept. 17	MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 24	at Arizona
Oct. 6	CALIFORNIA
Oct. 15	ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 22	at Colorado
Oct. 29	WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 5	at Washington
Nov. 12	at Stanford
Nov. 19	USC
Nov. 26	OREGON STATE

OREGON STATE

Sept. 3	SACRAMENTO STATE
Sept. 10	at Wisconsin
Sept. 24	UCLA
Oct. 1	at Arizona State
Oct. 8	ARIZONA
Oct. 15	BYU
Oct. 22	vs. Washington State
Oct. 29	at Utah
Nov. 5	STANFORD
Nov. 12	at California
Nov. 19	WASHINGTON
Nov. 26	at Oregon

STANFORD

Sept. 3	SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 10	at Duke
Sept. 17	at Arizona
Oct. 1	UCLA
Oct. 8	COLORADO
Oct. 15	at Washington State
Oct. 22	WASHINGTON
Oct. 29	at USC
Nov. 5	at Oregon State
Nov. 12	OREGON
Nov. 19	CALIFORNIA
Nov. 26	NOTRE DAME

UCLA

Sept. 3	at Houston
Sept. 10	SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 17	TEXAS
Sept. 24	at Oregon State
Oct. 1	at Stanford
Oct. 8	WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 20	at Arizona
Oct. 29	CALIFORNIA
Nov. 5	ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 12	at Utah
Nov. 19	COLORADO
Nov. 26	at USC

USC

Sept. 3	MINNESOTA
Sept. 10	UTAH
Sept. 17	SYRACUSE
Sept. 24	at Arizona State
Oct. 1	ARIZONA
Oct. 13	at California
Oct. 22	at Notre Dame
Oct. 29	STANFORD
Nov. 5	at Colorado
Nov. 12	WASHINGTON
Nov. 19	at Oregon
Nov. 26	UCLA

UTAH

Sept. 1	MONTANA STATE
Sept. 10	at USC
Sept. 17	at BYU
Oct. 1	WASHINGTON
Oct. 8	ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 15	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 22	at California
Oct. 29	OREGON STATE
Nov. 5	at Arizona
Nov. 12	UCLA
Nov. 19	at Washington State
Nov. 26	COLORADO

WASHINGTON

Sept. 3	EASTERN WASHINGTON
Sept. 10	HAWAII
Sept. 17	at Nebraska
Sept. 24	CALIFORNIA
Oct. 1	at Utah
Oct. 15	COLORADO
Oct. 22	at Stanford
Oct. 29	ARIZONA
Nov. 5	OREGON
Nov. 12	at USC
Nov. 19	at Oregon State
Nov. 26	vs. Washington State (Qwest Field)

WASHINGTON STATE

Sept. 3	IDAHO STATE
Sept. 10	UNLV
Sept. 17	at San Diego State
Oct. 1	at Colorado
Oct. 8	UCLA
Oct. 15	STANFORD
Oct. 22	vs. Oregon State (Seattle)
Oct. 29	at Oregon
Nov. 5	at California
Nov. 12	ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 19	UTAH
Nov. 26	vs. Washington (Qwest Field)

SEC

ALABAMA

Sept. 3	KENT STATE
Sept. 10	at Penn State
Sept. 17	North Texas
Sept. 24	ARKANSAS
Oct. 1	at Florida
Oct. 8	VANDERBILT
Oct. 15	at Ole Miss
Oct. 22	TENNESSEE
Nov. 5	LSU
Nov. 12	at Mississippi State
Nov. 19	GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Nov. 26	at Auburn

ARKANSAS

Sept. 3	MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 10	vs. New Mexico (Little Rock)
Sept. 17	TROY
Sept. 24	at Alabama
Oct. 1	vs. Texas A&M (Arlington)
Oct. 8	AUBURN
Oct. 22	at Ole Miss
Oct. 29	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 5	SOUTH CAROLINA
Nov. 12	TENNESSEE
Nov. 19	vs. Mississippi State (Little Rock)
Nov. 25	at LSU

AUBURN

Sept. 3	UTAH STATE
Sept. 10	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 17	at Clemson
Sept. 24	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 1	at South Carolina
Oct. 8	at Arkansas
Oct. 15	FLORIDA
Oct. 22	at LSU
Oct. 29	OLE MISS
Nov. 12	at Georgia
Nov. 19	SAMFORD
Nov. 26	ALABAMA

FLORIDA

Sept. 3	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Sept. 10	UAB
Sept. 17	TENNESSEE
Sept. 24	at Kentucky
Oct. 1	ALABAMA
Oct. 8	at LSU
Oct. 15	at Auburn
Oct. 29	vs. Georgia
Nov. 5	VANDERBILT
Nov. 12	at South Carolina
Nov. 19	FURMAN
Nov. 26	FLORIDA STATE

GEORGIA

Sept. 3	vs. Boise State (Atlanta)
Sept. 10	SOUTH CAROLINA
Sept. 17	COASTAL CAROLINA
Sept. 24	at Ole Miss
Oct. 1	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Oct. 8	at Tennessee
Oct. 15	at Vanderbilt
Oct. 29	vs. Florida (Jacksonville)
Nov. 5	NEW MEXICO STATE
Nov. 12	AUBURN
Nov. 19	KENTUCKY
Nov. 26	at Georgia Tech

KENTUCKY

Sept. 1	vs. Western Kentucky (Nashville)
Sept. 10	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 17	LOUISVILLE
Sept. 24	FLORIDA
Oct. 1	at LSU
Oct. 8	at South Carolina
Oct. 22	JACKSONVILLE STATE
Oct. 29	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 5	OLE MISS
Nov. 12	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 19	at Georgia
Nov. 26	TENNESSEE

LSU

Sept. 3	vs. Oregon (Arlington)
Sept. 10	NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 15	at Mississippi State
Sept. 24	at West Virginia
Oct. 1	KENTUCKY
Oct. 8	FLORIDA
Oct. 15	at Tennessee
Oct. 22	AUBURN
Nov. 5	at Alabama
Nov. 12	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 19	at Ole Miss
Nov. 25	ARKANSAS

OLE MISS

Sept. 3	BYU
Sept. 10	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 17	at Vanderbilt
Sept. 24	GEORGIA
Oct. 1	at Fresno State
Oct. 15	ALABAMA
Oct. 22	ARKANSAS
Oct. 29	at Auburn
Nov. 5	at Kentucky
Nov. 12	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 19	LSU
Nov. 26	at Mississippi State

MISSISSIPPI STATE

Sept. 3	at Memphis
Sept. 10	at Auburn
Sept. 15	LSU
Sept. 24	LOUISIANA TECH
Oct. 1	at Georgia
Oct. 8	at UAB
Oct. 15	SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 29	at Kentucky
Nov. 5	TENNESSEE MARTIN
Nov. 12	ALABAMA
Nov. 19	vs. Arkansas (Little Rock)
Nov. 26	OLE MISS

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sept. 3	vs. East Carolina (Charlotte)
Sept. 10	at Georgia
Sept. 17	NAVY
Sept. 24	VANDERBILT
Oct. 1	AUBURN
Oct. 8	KENTUCKY
Oct. 15	at Mississippi State
Oct. 29	at Tennessee
Nov. 5	at Arkansas
Nov. 12	FLORIDA
Nov. 19	THE CITADEL
Nov. 26	CLEMSON

TENNESSEE

Sept. 3	MONTANA
Sept. 10	CINCINNATI
Sept. 17	at Florida
Oct. 1	BUFFALO
Oct. 8	GEORGIA
Oct. 15	LSU
Oct. 22	at Alabama
Oct. 29	SOUTH CAROLINA
Nov. 5	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
Nov. 12	at Arkansas
Nov. 19	VANDERBILT
Nov. 26	at Kentucky

VANDERBILT

Sept. 3	ELON
Sept. 10	CONNECTICUT
Sept. 17	OLE MISS
Sept. 24	at South Carolina
Oct. 8	at Alabama
Oct. 15	GEORGIA
Oct. 22	ARMY
Oct. 29	ARKANSAS
Nov. 5	at Florida
Nov. 12	KENTUCKY
Nov. 19	at Tennessee
Nov. 26	at Wake Forest

SUN BELT

ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 3	at Illinois
Sept. 10	MEMPHIS
Sept. 17	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 24	CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Oct. 1	at Western Kentucky
Oct. 8	at ULM
Oct. 18	FIU
Oct. 29	NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 5	at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 12	LOUISIANA
Nov. 19	at Middle Tennesse State
Dec. 3	TROY

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Sept. 3	at Florida
Sept. 10	at Michigan State
Sept. 24	at Auburn
Oct. 1	at Louisiana
Oct. 8	at North Texas
Oct. 15	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 22	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 5	ARKANSAS STATE
Nov. 12	at FIU
Nov. 19	at Troy
Nov. 26	UAB
Dec. 3	ULM

FIU

Sept. 1	NORTH TEXAS
Sept. 9	at Louisville
Sept. 17	UCF
Sept. 24	LOUISIANA
Oct. 1	DUKE
Oct. 8	at Akron
Oct. 18	at Arkansas State
Oct. 25	TROY
Nov. 5	at Western Kentucky
Nov. 12	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 19	at ULM
Nov. 26	at Middle Tennessee

LOUISIANA

Sept. 3	at Oklahoma State
Sept. 10	at Kent State
Sept. 17	NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 24	at FIU
Oct. 1	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 8	TROY
Oct. 15	NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 22	at Western Kentucky
Oct. 29	at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 5	ULM
Nov. 12	at Arkansas State
Nov. 26	at Arizona

ULM

Sept. 3	at Florida State
Sept. 10	GRAMBLING STATE
Sept. 17	at TCU
Sept. 24	at Iowa
Oct. 8	ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 15	at Troy
Oct. 22	at North Texas
Oct. 29	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 5	at Louisiana
Nov. 12	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 19	FIU
Dec. 3	at Florida Atlantic

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Sept. 3	at Purdue
Sept. 10	GEORGIA TECH
Sept. 24	at Troy
Oct. 1	MEMPHIS
Oct. 6	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 22	at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 29	LOUISIANA
Nov. 5	at Tennessee
Nov. 12	at ULM
Nov. 19	ARKANSAS STATE
Nov. 26	FIU
Dec. 3	at North Texas

NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 1	at FIU
Sept. 10	HOUSTON
Sept. 17	at Alabama
Sept. 24	INDIANA
Oct. 1	at Tulsa
Oct. 8	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 15	at Louisiana
Oct. 22	ULM
Oct. 29	at Arkansas State
Nov. 12	at Troy
Nov. 19	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Dec. 3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE

SOUTH ALABAMA

Sept. 1	WEST ALABAMA
Sept. 10	LAMAR
Sept. 17	at NC State
Sept. 24	at Kent State
Oct. 8	at Texas-San Antonio
Oct. 15	TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Oct. 22	at Georgia State
Oct. 29	HENDERSON STATE (Ark.)
Nov. 3	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
Nov. 19	CAL POLY

TROY

Sept. 3	at Clemson
Sept. 17	at Arkansas
Sept. 24	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 1	UAB
Oct. 8	at Louisiana
Oct. 15	ULM
Oct. 25	at FIU
Nov. 5	at Navy
Nov. 12	NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 19	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 26	at Western Kentucky
Dec. 3	at Arkansas State

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Sept. 1	vs. Kentucky (Nashville)
Sept. 10	NAVY
Sept. 17	INDIANA STATE
Oct. 1	ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 6	at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 15	at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 22	LOUISIANA
Oct. 29	at ULM
Nov. 5	FIU
Nov. 12	at LSU
Nov. 19	at North Texas
Nov. 26	TROY

WAC

FRESNO STATE

Sept. 3	vs. California (San Francisco)
Sept. 10	at Nebraska
Sept. 17	NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 24	at Idaho
Oct. 1	OLE MISS
Oct. 7	BOISE STATE
Oct. 15	UTAH STATE
Oct. 22	at Nevada
Nov. 5	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 12	at New Mexico State
Nov. 19	at Hawaii
Nov. 26	SAN JOSE STATE
Dec. 3	at San Diego State

HAWAII

Sept. 3	COLORADO
Sept. 10	at Washington
Sept. 17	at UNLV
Sept. 24	UC DAVIS
Oct. 1	at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 15	at San Jose State
Oct. 22	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 29	at Idaho
Nov. 5	UTAH STATE
Nov. 12	at Nevada
Nov. 19	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 26	TULANE
Dec. 3	BYU

IDAHO

Sept. 1	BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 10	NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 17	at Texas A&M
Sept. 24	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 1	at Virginia
Oct. 8	LOUISIANA TECH
Oct. 15	at New Mexico State
Oct. 29	HAWAII
Nov. 5	at San Jose State
Nov. 12	at BYU
Nov. 19	UTAH STATE
Dec. 3	at Nevada

LOUISIANA TECH

Sept. 3	at Southern Miss
Sept. 10	CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Sept. 17	HOUSTON
Sept. 24	at Mississippi State
Oct. 1	HAWAII
Oct. 8	at Idaho
Oct. 22	at Utah State
Oct. 29	SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 5	at Fresno State
Nov. 12	at Ole Miss
Nov. 19	at Nevada
Nov. 26	NEW MEXICO STATE

NEVADA

Sept. 10	at Oregon
Sept. 17	at San Jose State
Sept. 24	at Texas Tech
Oct. 1	at Boise State
Oct. 8	UNLV
Oct. 15	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 22	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 29	at New Mexico State
Nov. 12	HAWAII
Nov. 19	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 26	at Utah State
Dec. 3	IDAHO

NEW MEXICO STATE

Sept. 3	OHIO
Sept. 10	Minnesota
Sept. 17	UTEP
Sept. 24	at San Jose State
Oct. 1	at New Mexico
Oct. 15	IDAHO
Oct. 22	at Hawaii
Oct. 29	NEVADA
Nov. 5	at Georgia
Nov. 12	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 19	at BYU
Nov. 26	at Louisiana Tech
Dec. 3	UTAH STATE

SAN JOSE STATE

Sept. 3	at Stanford
Sept. 10	at UCLA
Sept. 17	NEVADA
Sept. 24	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 1	at Colorado State
Oct. 8	at BYU
Oct. 15	HAWAII
Oct. 29	at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 5	IDAHO
Nov. 12	at Utah State
Nov. 19	NAVY
Nov. 26	at Fresno State

UTAH STATE

Sept. 3	at Auburn
Sept. 10	WEBER STATE
Sept. 24	vs. Colorado State
Sept. 30	at BYU
Oct. 8	WYOMING
Oct. 15	at Fresno State
Oct. 22	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 5	at Hawaii
Nov. 12	SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 19	at Idaho
Nov. 26	NEVADA
Dec. 3	at New Mexico State

KEEPING THE *faith*

BY BILL SORRELL

COUSINS THROWS THE BALL ... AND WALKS THE WALK

That he stood up for his convictions by not only talking the talk but walking the walk is the most important statement Kirk Cousins' teammates could make about him.

But before Cousins, Michigan State's quarterback, could walk, he had to crawl.

He and his teammates went on a weight lifting crawl to five weight rooms on Michigan State's campus.

The goal was to work so hard they were at the point of crawling between venues. They did pushups to "make sure we didn't lose our pump," and, as a joke, put on baby oil "to make us shine," said Cousins.

It wasn't the first time Cousins has shined.

After leading Michigan State to a share of the 2010 Big Ten title and completing 456 of 709 passes for 64 percent and a 146.7 passing efficiency rating as a two year starter,, both first in Spartans history, Cousins was named honorable mention All-Big Ten.

He was one of 16 semifinalists for the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback and one of 10 finalists for the Wuerffel Trophy. With a 3.6 GPA and major in kinesiology, Cousins was Academic All-Big Ten.

One of 22 players nationwide, Cousins was named to the Allstate AFCA (American Football Coaches Association) Good Works Team®.

Community involvement, commitment to working with a charitable organization or service group and good academic standing are considerations for the team.

"It was a great opportunity to be part of a team of people who have tried to make a difference with the platform college football has given them; people who look outside themselves and toward the needs of other people," said Cousins.

He volunteers in the pediatric unit of Sparrow Medical Center in Lansing and has worked with the Sparrow Children's Miracle Network Telethon. He has encouraged involvement in Mentor1 Sports, an organization that provides mentors for Grand Rapids-area children without a male family figure.

About 20 times a year, he speaks to churches, civic groups and football teams, proclaiming his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.

"I share my story of the difference that Jesus Christ has made in my life as a football player, as a student, as a son, as a brother and in every role. Jesus has made the biggest impact and I want that to be known. I want to live a life that makes God visible and puts Him on display. I want to glorify Him and make Him famous," said Cousins, who is also involved with the Athletes In Action ministry.

As he enters his fifth year at MSU with the fourth-most passing yards (5,815) in school history, Cousins said the decision to honor God "above all else" has made all the difference.

It was while walking in the footsteps of Jesus that Cousins cemented his commitment to make Christ his "foundation."

With 50 Holland (Mich.) Christian High School classmates in 2007, Cousins went to Israel for a two-week study in Jerusalem and around the Sea of Galilee.

"When you walk in the footsteps of Jesus, there is great excitement and intrigue. That motivated me to begin my days of college with a commitment of my faith above everything else in my life," he said.

Cousins did not have a Paul-like Damascus Road experience when he became a Christian. He was led to Christ at age 8 by his father Don Cousins, a national church consultant, author, and one of the founding staff members in 1975 of one of America's mega-churches, Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago.

As a high school junior, Cousins began to fully understand the scope of the gospel. He became more passionate about "following hard" after Jesus. He went from spiritual "mediocrity" to an "encompassing" relationship, he said.

"My faith means everything; more than throwing a touchdown pass to win a game, more than getting an 'A' in a class, more than landing a job. Jesus has been the sole molder of my character. The truth of the Bible has pierced my heart and opened my eyes."

Out of high school, Cousins was not in demand. A broken ankle made him miss most of his junior season. He claimed his life verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, for his future, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."

Scholarship offers did come however — in the eleventh hour.

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio has watched Cousins develop as a leader.

"Due to the nature of the position, all quarterbacks have to be leaders," Dantonio said. "There aren't many leaders like Kirk Cousins. What makes Kirk a special leader is that he's truly a giver. He focuses his attention on others. If someone needs to be lifted up, he's there for them. His teammates see his genuine concern for them. Kirk is a positive role model on the field, in the classroom and in the community."

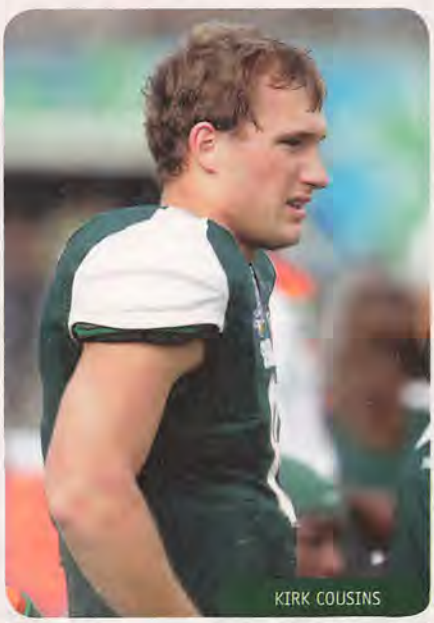
He was only the second sophomore in program history to be elected a team captain.

At MSU, Cousins, who has as many good memories of being in the high school swing choir as he does playing high school football, found a spiritual role model in Justin Kershaw, a former defensive lineman and captain.

"My spiritual mentors have done a great job of making Jesus cool. Too often we picture Jesus as pointing the finger at us. My mentors opened my eyes that Jesus is one cool dude," said Cousins.

Cousins points to Christ.

"I have been given an ability to throw a football and play college football at a high level," he said. "I realize it is not anything I have done, but by His grace and what He has done for me. I want to live a life that points back to Him."



KIRK COUSINS

Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images

NATIONAL RECRUITING

By Chris Nee
Rivals.com

1 Alabama

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 3, TE – 1, OL – 5, DE – 4, DT – 2, LB – 3, DB – 2, ATH – 1

THE BUZZ: Nick Saban and Alabama won another recruiting crown with a haul of 23 signees in 2011.

Leading the class is a trio of five-star prospects — offensive tackle **Cyrus Kouandjio**, running back **Demetrius Hart** and defensive back **Hasean Clinton-Dix**. All three prospects came from out-of-state. Alabama once again proved they are attractive across the nation by signing prospects from Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee.

The class was able to hold onto the top spot due to a strong finish. The commitments of in-state linebacker **Brent Calloway** and North Carolina defensive end **Jeoffrey Pagan** came on National Signing Day, while Kouandjio took until Feb. 5th to officially sign with Alabama, choosing the Crimson Tide over Auburn.

The defensive line at Alabama reloaded. In addition to Pagan, the Crimson Tide added defensive ends **D.J. Pettway**, **Xzavier Dickson**, and junior college defensive end **Quinton Dial**. At defensive tackle, they landed **LaMichael Fanning,** as well as another junior college prospect, **Jesse Williams**.

Offensively, Hart and Kouandjio were at the top of the class, but a trio of wide receivers will provide depth and talent at the position for Alabama. **Marvin Shinn** and **Danny Woodson** provide size, both checking in at taller than 6-2, while **Bradley Sylve** adds great speed. Sylve could contribute early on special teams.

2 Florida State

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 3, WR – 2, TE – 1, OL – 8, DE – 2, DT – 5, LB – 2, DB – 5

THE BUZZ: Florida State put together a phenomenal class by winning numerous major recruiting battles in the Sunshine State. In total, 23 of the 29 signees came from within Florida. Two of the best in-state prospects, five-star safety **Karlos Williams** and five-star running back **James Wilder Jr.**, both opted for the Garnet and Gold.

The Seminoles addressed their defensive line depth by adding top junior college defensive end **Cornellius Carradine** from Butler County C.C. in El Dorado, Kansas. Carradine, who was an early enrollee, has an excellent opportunity to compete for a starting job in 2011. At defensive tackle, the class was topped by **Timmy Jernigan**.

Another position that saw a major upgrade was tight end. The Seminoles landed the nation's top prospect at the position when they secured the services of **Nick O'Leary**. The 6-4, 235-pound tight end is a sound blocker and also an excellent receiver option.

Offensive line coach Rick Trickett was able to restock his position signing nine linemen. Junior college interior lineman **Jacob Fahrenkrug**, as well as high school prospects **Bobby Hart** and **Josue Matias** lead the group.

3 Texas

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 2, WR – 2, TE – 1, OL – 5, DE – 1, DT – 2, LB – 3, DB 4, ATH – 1

THE BUZZ: Mack Brown and the Longhorns will look to turn things around in 2011 by leaning on a talented incoming freshman class. One prospect with a shot to contribute starting with his first day on campus is five-star running back **Malcolm Brown**. Brown is a talented big back checking in at 6-0, 220-pounds.

Texas' class is largely from within the state. The only out-of-state signee was defensive back **Josh Turner**, who hails from Oklahoma City (Okla.) Millwood. He was considered the top prospect in the state of Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

As for the in-state haul, Brown is the top of the crop, but others such as linebacker **Steve Edmond**, wide receiver **Jaxon Shipley**, and defensive back **Quandre Diggs** were all considered top 10 Lone Star State prospects.

Quarterback **David Ash** was an early enrollee and competed in spring practice but isn't likely to immediately compete with Case McCoy, Garrett Gilbert or Connor Wood at this time.

4 Southern California

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, RB – 1, WR – 3, OL – 6, DE – 4, DT – 3, LB – 4, DB – 2, ATH – 3, K – 2

THE BUZZ: Despite troubles with the NCAA and questions hovering around the program, Lane Kiffin and staff locked up a total of 30 prospects in their 2011 class. The Trojans addressed depth with talent at nearly every position.

The top player in the class is an in-state wide receiver, **George Farmer**. Farmer who has great top-end speed, is electric with the ball in his hands. Fellow signees **Victor Blackwell** and **Junior Pomee** are also talented wideouts who opted to stay in their home state and play for the Trojans.

Another prospect who could play wide receiver, is athlete **Marqise Lee**, who was a teammate of Farmer's at Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra.

The Trojans earned headlines on National Signing Day by closing strong and that charge was led by a pair of out-of-state prospects. The Trojans beat the Buckeyes for Cleveland (Ohio) Glenville offensive tackle **Aundrey Walker**. They also dipped into SEC territory and staved off such schools as Tennessee and Kentucky for Danville (Ky.) Boyle County linebacker **Lamar Dawson**.

Outside of the Golden State, Kiffin and company signed prospects from Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey and Ohio.

5 Georgia

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 3, TE – 1, OL – 6, DE – 2, DT – 2, LB – 3, DB – 4, ATH – 3

THE BUZZ: Coming off a disappointing season, Mark Richt put together a great 2011 class by securing a number of top targets within the Peach State's borders. What became affectionately known as the Georgia "Dream Team" is a class that could help put Georgia back in the discussion for the SEC Championship.

The "Dream Team" was headlined by five-star running back **Isaiah Crowell** and five-star defensive end **Ray Drew**. Crowell is a great mix of speed and power and has an opportunity to contribute early. Drew has a great frame, good first step, and is a well developed defensive end.

Other members of the "Dream Team" included defensive back **Malcolm Mitchell**, defensive back **Damian Swan**, and tight end **Jay Rome**. In all, Georgia landed seven of the top ten prospects in the 2011 class from the Peach State.

Also at the top of the class for the Bulldogs was quarterback **Christian LeMay**, who signed out of Matthews (N.C.) Butler. LeMay, a 6-2, 200-pound signal-caller was considered one of the nation's top pro-style quarterbacks. LeMay excels due to a strong arm and great accuracy.

A pair of less heralded prospects to keep an eye on are at the linebacker position and both hail from the Sunshine State. **Ramik Wilson** and **Kent Turene** will both be pivotal pieces in Georgia's remodeled defense under Todd Grantham.

6 LSU

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 3, RB – 1, WR – 3, OL – 4, DE – 2, DT – 2, LB – 1, DB – 4, ATH – 2, K – 1

THE BUZZ: Les Miles class was headlined by the top three in-state prospects for Louisiana in 2011. Offensive tackle **La'El Collins**, defensive tackle **Anthony Johnson**, and wide receiver **Jarvis Landry** were all considered five-star players from Louisiana and all three opted to stay home and play for the Bayou Bengals. All three should see playing time early in Baton Rouge.

The state's remaining two prospects in the top five, wide receiver **Odell Beckham Jr.** and **Kenny Hilliard**, also opted to stay home for their college careers. Beckham Jr. will combine with Landry to form a very explosive pair of wide receivers who can break a game open every time they get their hands on the ball.

Out of 23 signees, 16 came from the Pelican State. Other signees came from Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Mississippi and Texas.

The top two defensive back signees in the class came from out-of-state with **David Jenkins**, from Texas, and **Jalen Collins**, from Mississippi.

Also, all three quarterbacks coming in with the 2011 class came from outside the state borders. **Zach Mettenberger**, the former Georgia quarterback, made his way to LSU via a stop at Butler County C.C. in Kansas. He will be joined by a pair of high school signees, **Stephen Rivers** from Alabama and **Jerrard Randall** from Florida.

7 Auburn

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 2, WR – 2, TE – 2, OL – 4, DE – 2, DT – 2, LB – 4, DB – 5

THE BUZZ: The Auburn Tigers followed up their national championship by bringing a top 10 class to campus. You have to look no further than the top of

the class to see the impact of a national championship. The top two signees for the Tigers both hail from out-of-state.

Linebacker **Kris Frost**, a five-star, is making his way to Auburn from Matthews (N.C.) Butler. Offensive tackle **Christian Westerman** decommitted from the Texas Longhorns and switched to Auburn late in the process. Westerman is from Chandler (Ariz.) Hamilton. In total, 14 of Auburn's signees were from out of state, with Florida and Georgia being the states that contributed the most.

The in-state haul for Gene Chizik was also very good. At the top of the class from Alabama is defensive back **Erique Florence**. He is joined by offensive lineman Reese Dismukes, who enrolled early.

At quarterback, Gus Malzahn opted for the top prospect in Arkansas, dual-threat quarterback **Kiehl Frazier**. Frazier is a tall, thick quarterback with a big arm and good athleticism.

The defensive back class for Auburn was top-notch. In addition to Florence, they also secured the services of fellow in-state defensive backs Jonathan **Rose** and **Anthony Swain**. They also went to Mississippi for **Jermaine Whitehead** and Florida for **Robenson Therezie**.

8 Clemson

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 3, RB – 1, WR – 4, TE – 1, OL – 4, DE – 3, DT – 4, LB – 5, DB – 2, ATH -1, K – 1

THE BUZZ: Dabo Swinney and the Clemson Tigers were the only team in 2011 to land four five-star signees. What makes that haul even more impressive is that a trio of them came from the talent-rich state of Florida with the fourth hailing from neighboring North Carolina.

The trio of five-star prospects from the Sunshine State was running back **Mike Bellamy**, wide receiver **Sammy Watkins**, and linebacker **Tony Steward**. Steward opted for the Tigers over in-state Florida State on National Signing Day. The North Carolina product is linebacker **Stephone Anthony**, who chose Clemson over Virginia Tech on National Signing Day. The additions of Steward and Anthony help to resolve a major void at the linebacker spot for the Tigers.

In total, Clemson signed five linebackers. Joining Steward and Anthony will be in-state signees **Lateek Townsend** and **B.J. Goodson**, as well as North Carolina product **Colton Walls**.

After spending a year at Hargrave Military Academy, defensive end **Corey Crawford** is set to arrive on campus. He has a chance to earn a spot in the rotation at defensive end early in his career.

Clemson addressed needs of depth and talent along their front seven by signing a total of 12 players at those positions.

Other positions where depth and talent were addressed was wide receiver, where Watkins is complimented by the likes of **Charone Peake** and **Martavis Bryant**, and quarterback where they brought in a trio – **Cole Stoudt**, **Morgan Roberts** and **Tony McNeal**.

9 Oregon

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 4, OL – 5, DE – 2, DT – 1, LB – 5, DB – 1, ATH – 3

THE BUZZ: The Ducks parlayed their national championship game appearance into a strong 2011 class. Chip Kelly and company scoured the nation looking for the best talent and finished with 23 signees, 20 of whom are from out of state.

The top of the class heading to Eugene includes one in-state signee, athlete **Colt Lyerla**, and a pair of prospects from California – athlete **De'Anthony Thomas** and wide receiver **Devon Blackmon**. Lyerla's future is likely on defense, while Thomas could play on either side of the ball. Blackmon is a burner at the wide receiver position who quickly stretches the field. He will be complimented by fellow wide receiver signee, **Tacoi Sumler**, from Florida, who is a prototypical slot wide receiver with great top-end speed.

Another talented athlete heading to Oregon is Iowa product **Christian French**. French has great size and speed and could play a variety of positions on either side of the ball.

Oregon addressed needs at the linebacker position by bringing in five. The group is led by Dallas (Texas) Skyline linebacker Anthony Wallace. Wallace has great size, 6-2, 220-pounds, and solid speed that makes him a threat all over the field.

Another spot where quality depth was added is along the offensive line. In total, five linemen signed with the Ducks. The top two linemen in the class both hail from Arizona, offensive tackles **Andre Yruretagoyena** and **Tyler Johnstone**.

10 Notre Dame

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 1, TE – 1, OL – 5, DE – 7, LB – 1, DB – 3, ATH – 2, K – 1

THE BUZZ: When talking about the signing class assembled by Notre Dame, the topic begins and ends with their incredible haul at defensive end. The top three signees in the class all line up at defensive end — five-stars **Ishaq Williams** and **Stephone Tuitt,** as well as four-star **Aaron Lynch**.

In addition to that trio, the Irish also landed **Tony Springmann**, **Anthony Rabasa**, **Ben Councell** and **Brad Carrico** at defensive end. In their defensive scheme, some of those signees will be utilized as outside linebackers by Brian Kelly and his staff.

Defensive end isn't the only position where the Irish added talent. Prospects such as wide receiver **Davaris Daniels**, tight end **Ben Koyack**, offensive linemen **Matthew Hegarty** and **Troy Niklas**, defensive back **Eilar Hardy**, and athlete **George Arkinson III** are also among the top prospects in the class.

At quarterback, the Irish were able to switch dual-threat signal-caller **Everett Golson** away from North Carolina late in the process. He cited the academic opportunities, combined with the spread offense at Notre Dame.

Also, Notre Dame continued to show their national allure by landing prospects from a total of 14 states, ranging coast-to-coast.

11 Ohio State

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, WR – 2, TE – 2, OL – 5, DE – 3, DT – 2, LB – 4, DB – 4

THE BUZZ: Jim Tressel and Ohio State landed another solid class in 2011. Leading the Buckeyes' haul is linebacker **Curtis Grant** from Richmond, Va. Grant is an explosive linebacker who is a tackling machine all over the field. The Buckeyes beat out the Florida Gators and others for his services.

Ohio State once again did well in their home state by signing seven of the top ten prospects available, including the top two in-state prospects, quarterback **Braxton Miller** and defensive tackle **Michael Bennett**. Miller is an electric athlete under center with a live arm. Another top in-state product, defensive back **Doran Grant**, also will play for the Buckeyes.

Miller isn't the only quarterback on his way to Columbus. Fellow local product **Cardale Jones** also signed with the Buckeyes.

The defensive end haul for the Buckeyes is one to be celebrated as well. Ohio products **Kenny Hayes**, **Steve Miller** and **Chase Farris** all opted to stay in-state. Hayes has the best opportunity to contribute early in his career.

12 Florida

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, RB – 2, WR – 2, TE – 1, OL – 2, DE – 2, LB – 1, DB – 6, K – 1

THE BUZZ: Will Muschamp and company did a good job sustaining the class they were handed upon the transition from Urban Meyer's resignation. Down the stretch, Muschamp and staff added quarterback **Jacoby Brissett**, defensive end **Tevin Westbrook**, linebacker **Graham Stewart**, and a pair of defensive backs in **Jabari Gorman** and **Marcus Roberson**. It helped to make up for a few defections and allowed the Gators to finish with a solid class.

Brissett, who didn't sign until after National Signing Day, will make his way on campus this summer. He will immediately be greeted by freshman Jeff Driskel, the Gator's top signee in 2011. Driskel is an incredible athlete with a strong arm and great speed. He is a true dual-threat quarterback who is now working to transition into the pro-style offense being utilized by Muschamp and staff.

Other offensive weapons making their way to Gainesville include versatile running back **Mike Blakely** and tight end **A.C. Leonard**, who is a thick athlete with good hands. At wide receiver, the Gators added speed in the slot with **Javares McRoy** and a big red-zone target on the outside in **Ja'Juan Story**.

Defensively, the class is led by Roberson, who decommitted from Auburn late in the process before ultimately opting for the Gators. Other talented defensive backs making their way to town include **Jabari Gorman** and **Louchiez Purifoy**. Purifoy could contribute early in his career as a return man.

13 Tennessee

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 3, WR – 1, TE – 1, OL – 6, DE – 1, DT – 3, LB – 3, DB – 5, ATH – 3

THE BUZZ: Derek Dooley and the Volunteers put together a solid class that may help move them back into contention among their SEC foes. The class

was led by wide receiver **DeAnthony Arnett** from Michigan. Joining him toward the top of the class were in-state offensive lineman **Antonio Richardson** and California junior college product **Byron Moore**, who is a defensive back.

The Volunteers addressed a need on the offensive line by signing six linemen. Joining Richardson are fellow linemen **Alan Posey**, **Kyler Kerbyson**, **Marcus Jackson**, **Mack Crowder** and **Cameron Clear**. Jackson enrolled early and has participated in spring ball.

Another spot where depth was added in Knoxville was in the defensive secondary. In addition to Moore, the Volunteers added **Justin Coleman**, **Pat Martin**, **Brian Randolph** and **Geraldo Orta**. Moore, Coleman and Martin all have a chance to contribute early in their careers.

The running back class heading to Tennessee is headlined by a pair of Sunshine State backs. **Marlin Lane** and **Tom Smith** are both big backs who can not only pound out tough yards, but also make big plays when they break loose. In-state prospect **Devrin Young** is more a change-of-pace back, as the small, 5-7, 156-pound back can make things happen in space.

At quarterback, the Volunteers invaded the Palmetto State to take **Justin Worley**. Worley racked up a number of accolades, including Gatorade National Football Player of Year honors.

14 Oklahoma

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 2, TE – 2, OL – 3, DE – 1, DT – 3, LB – 2, DB – 1, ATH – 1

THE BUZZ: Oklahoma signed a relatively small class bringing in just 17 prospects, but the Sooners got some great quality in 2011. The class is led by a pair of five-star prospects from Texas, wide receiver **Trey Metoyer** and running back **Brandon Williams**.

Metoyer and Williams are offensive weapons who could see early playing time. Metoyer is a tall wide receiver with great speed. Williams should help soften the blow caused by the loss of DeMarco Murray, as he is another big, powerful back with great speed.

Defensive tackle **Jordan Phillips** is another talented player heading to Norman. The long, lanky athlete has a great build and could contribute on either side of the ball. Phillips is part of a very talented haul at defensive tackle. He is joined by **Marquis Anderson** and **Jordan Wade**.

Geographically speaking, Texas treated Bob Stoops and company very well as 12 of their 17 signees hail from there. In comparison, just two in-state prospects opted for the Sooners, offensive lineman **Dylan Dismuke** and quarterback **Kendal Thompson**, who were ranked second and third in Oklahoma respectively.

15 Nebraska

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB -1, WR – 1, OL – 5, DE – 1, DT – 2, LB – 2, DB – 3, ATH – 2, K -1

THE BUZZ: The Cornhuskers put together a talented haul in 2011, led by **Tyler Moore**, an offensive lineman from Florida. Moore will help to open holes for running back **Aaron Green**, the younger brother of Husker Andrew Green.

Moore isn't the only quality lineman in the 2011 class for Bo Pelini and company. Joining Moore will be highly regarded linemen such as **Zach Sterup** and **Ryne Reeves**. **Ryan Klachko** and **Givens Mordi Price** help to round out a talented, deep haul along the offensive front.

Another talented offensive weapon in the class is quarterback **Jamal Turner** from Texas. Turner is a dual-threat quarterback who could play a variety of positions due to his high-level athleticism.

The class wasn't all about offense though. Defensively, prospects such as defensive tackle **Todd Peat Jr.**, linebacker **David Santos**, and defensive backs **Charles Jackson** and **Daimion Stafford** should provide important depth early.

Athletes **Bubba Starling** and **Ameer Abdullah** can play an array of positions and will find a home for the Huskers. With regards to Starling, the Major League Baseball draft could take him away from the Huskers before he ever makes an impact in Lincoln.

16 North Carolina

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 3, WR – 1, TE – 2, OL – 3, DE – 2, DT – 3, LB – 3, DB – 6, K – 1

THE BUZZ: Butch Davis and company pounded the pavement and turned over every rock to find talent far and wide for their 2011 class.

A position where it could be said that the Tar Heels hit a home run is on the offensive line. All three signees along the offensive front have a shot to make an impact early in their career. Offensive tackles **Kiaro Holts** and **Landon Turner** as well as offensive guard **Jarrod James**.

Another key offensive get for the Heels was in-state quarterback **Marquise Williams**. Williams, an early commitment to Carolina, flirted with Virginia Tech throughout the process largely due to concerns over the NCAA investigation surrounding North Carolina. Once those concerns were addressed, the talented dual-threat quarterback opted to sign with the in-state school.

On defense, in-state defensive linemen **Norkeithus Otis** and **Devonte Brown** combined with Virginia native, linebacker **Travis Hughes**, led the charge. Three under-the-radar defensive signees hail from the Sunshine State in linebacker **Keeon Virgile** and defensive backs **Samuel Smiley** and **Alex Dixon**.

While Butch Davis and company had to combat negative headlines and major question marks in assembling a class, it turned out to be a solid group.

17 California

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 4, WR – 1, TE – 1, OL – 2, DE – 3, DT – 2, LB – 2, DB – 4, ATH – 2

THE BUZZ: The Golden Bears assembled a solid class with a majority of the top talent coming from the Golden State. Some of the top in-state prospects they landed include running back **Brendon Bigelo**, offensive lineman **Jordan Rigsbee**, defensive end **Todd Barr**, defensive tackles **Viliama Moala** and **Mustafa Jalil**, linebacker **Jason Gibson**, and defensive back **Stefan McClure**.

Moala was the top-ranked prospect among that group, but Bigelow is the most intriguing. The dynamic running back hasn't played a meaningful down in over a year due to knee injuries. If he is able to fully recovery from the injuries that have sidelined him, Bigelow can do some special things.

Cal also went out of state for top talent. That crop was led by junior college offensive lineman **Matt Williams** from North Dakota, Oregon defensive end **Brennan Scarlett**, and Georgia defensive back **Avery Walls**. Scarlett was considered the No. 2 player in Oregon in 2011. Another state where they took a top talent was Massachusetts, where tight end **Richard Rodgers** is from.

18 South Carolina

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 3, WR – 3, OL – 6, DE – 2, DT – 4, LB – 5, DB – 4, ATH – 2

THE BUZZ: Steve Spurrier and South Carolina signed a massive class in 2011, which included the nation's consensus No. 1 player — in-state defensive end **Jadeveon Clowney**. Clowney is considered by pundits as an incredibly unique defensive end due to his great size, speed, athleticism and skill set. He will make an immediate, and major, impact for the Gamecocks barring injury.

Clowney wasn't the only talented defensive lineman signed by South Carolina. Joining him on the front four will be a pair of very talented defensive tackles, **Kelcy Quarles** and **Phillip Dukes**.

At defensive back, the class was led by **Sheldon Royster** and **Brison Williams**. **Ronnie Martin**, **Kadetrix Marcus**, and possibly athlete **Ahmad Christian** will add more depth at the position.

Offensively, the Gamecocks added quite a bit of talent on the offensive line. **Brandon Shell** is the top offensive lineman in the 2011 class in the state of South Carolina. He was considered the second best player in the Palmetto State behind Clowney. In addition to Shell, the Gamecocks signed five out-of-state offensive linemen — **Kaleb Broome**, **Kyle Harris** and **Quincy McKinney** from Georgia, as well as **Mike Matulis** and **Will Sport** from Florida.

At quarterback, the 'Cocks signed **Martay Mattox**. While he is expected to start his career under center, he could likely move to another position.

The wide receiver class includes **Shamier Jeffery**, the younger brother of Gamecock superstar wide receiver Alshon, as well as **Damiere Byrd**, arguably the fastest recruit in the 2011 class.

19 Ole Miss

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, WR – 5, TE – 1, OL – 4, DE – 1, DT – 3, LB – 4, DB – 5, ATH – 2

THE BUZZ: Houston Nutt and the Rebels put together a strong class led by a solid contingent from the Magnolia State. A total of 14 players from in-state signed with the Rebels.

At the top of that list is the No. 1 player in Mississippi in 2011, linebacker **C.J. Johnson**. Johnson is a wrecking ball on defense with great speed and an aggressive style. He is a quarterback on the defensive side of the ball.

Another top in-state player who opted to stay home and play for the Rebels

was electric wide receiver **Nickolas Brassell**. Joining Brassell at wide receiver from in-state is **Donte Moncrief** and **Tobias Singleton**. Those are the top three wideouts in the state of Mississippi for the 2011 class.

Offensive lineman **Aaron Morris** was also a top five in-state player who decided to play for the Rebels. Athlete **Cody Prewitt** is considered the top athlete from in-state and also signed with Ole Miss. In total, six of the state's top 10 players will be calling Oxford home starting this summer.

The Rebels also landed a pair of signal callers, **Maikhail Miller** from in-state and **Zack Stoudt** from the junior college ranks.

20 Texas Tech

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 3, WR – 4, TE – 1, OL – 4, DE – 6, DT – 1, LB – 3, DB – 2, ATH – 3

THE BUZZ: Texas Tech's class got a late addition with McKeesport, Pa., defensive tackle **Delvon Simmons**, a Rivals100 player, deciding to commit to the Red Raiders.

As for those that have signed, that group is led by in-state tight end **Jace Amaro**. The 6-5, 237-pound jumbo athlete is versatile with the capability to be a threat down the field or an asset blocking at the line.

The Red Raiders addressed needs by loading up at two spots, signing six defensive ends and four wide receivers.

The defensive end group is led by junior college transfer **Leon Mackey**, who is capable of coming in and contributing early in his career. **Branden Jackson**, a teammate of Simmons, and **Cooper Washington** are also excellent gets at defensive end.

At wide receiver, the class was led by junior college wideout **Marcus Kennard** as well as Texas product **Derek Edwards**.

Other top incoming players for Texas Tech will include running back **Kenny Williams**, a 200-plus pound running back with good speed, and offensive center **Tony Morales**.

Morales will be snapping the ball to dual-threat quarterback **Michael Brewer**, who was the lone quarterback signee in the 2011 class.

21 Michigan

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 1, OL – 2, DE – 4, LB – 4, DB – 4, ATH – 1, K – 1

THE BUZZ: Brady Hoke's first class at Michigan is led by an in-state running back **Justice Hayes**. Hayes, who was considered the No. 4 prospect in the State of Michigan in 2011, was the top signee for the Wolverines. Hayes is a very quick back with good speed and ball skills.

Tight end **Chris Barnett**, who is coming from Texas, is another major offensive weapon landed in the class. Barnett is a capable receiver at tight end with a thick frame that enables him to be an effective blocker. He decided on Michigan on National Signing Day.

Chris Bryant is an offensive tackle from Illinois who was the top offensive line signee in the class. He is an anchor who is tough to move off the block on the edge. He has a chance to contribute early in his career in Ann Arbor.

Defensively, the class was led by defensive end **Brennen Beyer**, an in-state product, and Maryland defensive back **Blake Countess**. Countess was considering the No. 3 player in the state of Maryland's 2011 class.

One other storyline surrounding the 2011 Michigan class was its success in Ohio. Michigan landed seven prospects from the neighboring state. The best of the bunch is linebacker **Antonio Poole**.

22 Stanford

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, RB – 2, WR – 2, OL – 2, DE – 3, DT – 2, LB – 2, DB – 3, ATH – 1

THE BUZZ: Stanford built up good momentum throughout the 2011 recruiting cycle, but that was halted somewhat with the departure of Jim Harbaugh from Palo Alto. During the final month of the process, the Cardinal landed just two prospects, a pair of defensive backs in **Wayne Lyons** and **Ronnie Harris**. Lyons pledged his services during the U.S. Army All-America Bowl.

The top of the class is linebacker **James Vaughters** from Georgia. The Peach State product possesses great size and speed and is a commanding force in the middle of the defense. He processes things quickly on the football field and does a great job of putting himself in position to make plays.

Another talented defender headed to Stanford is defensive end **Charlie Hopkins**. He is a long, strong defensive end who has good speed off the edge.

A pair of talented running backs are also heading to Stanford in **Remound Wright** and **Kelsey Young**. Both are powerfully built running backs with solid speed. Wright was considered the top prospect in the state of Indiana.

Stanford also snagged another top out-of-state player in offensive tackle **Brendon Austin**. Austin was considered the No. 1 prospect in the state of Colorado for 2011. Austin is a long-armed offensive tackle prospect with a great frame to add weight after getting on campus.

23 Washington

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 2, RB – 2, WR – 4, TE – 1, OL – 2, DE – 3, DT – 1, LB – 4, DB – 4

THE BUZZ: Steve Sarkisian and Washington did a great job staying west to assemble their class. Their 23 signees hail from just three states — 13 from California, nine from Washington, and one from Nevada.

In their home state, the Huskies signed five of the top six players. The top player from in-state is tight end **Austin Seferian-Jenkins**. Seferian-Jenkins was considered the nation's No. 2 tight end. He is a tall, big-bodied tight end who is very athletic.

A pair of other in-state offensive prospects have people feeling optimistic about the future of the Huskies. Wide receiver **Kasen Williams** is a physical wide receiver who is athletic and capable of going up to win jump balls. He is a target on the outside or across the middle. Running back **Bishop Sankey** is a quick running back who can rapidly change direction.

On defense, big-bodied defensive tackle **Danny Shelton** will provide a clog in the middle of the defensive line. He will provide good pressure through the middle of the line and demand double teams.

The best out-of-state signee for Washington was California's **James Sample**. Sample is a big safety with the ability to unload on wide receivers.

24 Arkansas

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 5, TE – 2, OL – 5, DE – 4, DT – 3, LB – 4, DB – 2, ATH – 3

THE BUZZ: Bobby Petrino and Arkansas assembled a top 25 class that is balanced with incoming talent on each side of the ball.

Two of the top offensive players coming in are from the Natural State. Offensive lineman **Brey Cook** and quarterback **Brandon Allen** were considered the second and third best players in-state, falling behind Auburn signee Kiehl Frazier. Cook is a huge offensive lineman who is versatile enough to play tackle or guard. Cook has already enrolled at Arkansas. Allen is a precision passer who makes great decisions with the ball in his hand and effectively moves an offense down the field.

In total, Arkansas signed seven of the top 10 in-state prospects in 2011.

The other two top signees for Arkansas in 2011 came from out-of-state, in New York wide receiver **Marquel Wade** and Texas defensive back **Tevin Mitchel**. Wade, who spent a year at prep school before enrolling at Arkansas in January, originally hails from Florida. He is a speedy wideout who can stretch the field. Mitchel is a talented cornerback with good size at 6-0, 175-pounds. He can combat size at the wide receiver position with his athletic ability.

In total, five of the Razorbacks commitments enrolled early. Joining Cook and Wade are defensive tackle **Robert Thomas**, linebacker **Tyler Gilbert**, and wide receiver **Quinta Funderbunk**.

25 Virginia

THE PARTICULARS: QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 1, OL – 4, DE – 5, DT – 2, LB – 3, DB – 5, ATH – 4

THE BUZZ: Mike London and Virginia claimed the final spot in the Top 25 by putting together a solid class largely built on in-state prospects.

Some of the top players in Virginia that decided to stay home to play for the Cavaliers include defensive back **Demetrious Nicholson**, athlete **Dominique Terrell**, running back **Clifton Richardson** and defensive tackle **David Dean**.

Nicholson is the top signee in the class. He is a 5-11, 167-pound cornerback who is physical at the line of scrimmage but has the hips and speed to turn and run with wide receivers down the field.

Out of state, Virginia landed two of the state of Maryland's top five players in athlete **Darius Jennings** and defensive back **Brandon Phelps**. Jennings, who was a high school quarterback, is expected to be utilized at slot receiver by Virginia. Phelps is a talented safety who has the opportunity to make an early impact in the secondary.

100 FOR 2011

INCOMING FRESHMEN

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

QUARTERBACKS

Rk	Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School	College
32.	Jeff Driskel	6-3/225	Oviedo (FL) Hagerty	Florida
34.	Braxton Miller	6-2/185	Huber Heights (OH) Wayne	Ohio State
71.	Cody Kessler	6-1/208	Bakersfield (CA) Centennial	USC
72.	Brett Hundley	6-4/210	Chandler (AZ) Chandler	UCLA
75.	Jacoby Brissett	6-5/225	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	Florida
76.	Max Wittek	6-4/215	Santa Ana (CA) Mater Dei	USC
86.	J.W. Walsh	6-2/190	Denton (TX) Guyer	Oklahoma State
88.	Christian LeMay	6-2/200	Matthews (NC) Butler	Georgia
89.	Kiehl Frazier	6-3/212	Springdale (AR) Shiloh Christian	Auburn

RUNNING BACKS

10.	Malcolm Brown	6-0/220	Cibolo (TX) Steele	Texas
11.	James Wilder Jr.	6-2/219	Tampa (FL) Plant	Florida State
14.	Brandon Williams	6-1/188	Brookshire (TX) Royal	Oklahoma
19.	Demetrius Hart	5-8/190	Orlando (FL) Dr. Phillips	Alabama
23.	Isaiah Crowell	5-11/210	Columbus (GA) Carver	Georgia
25.	Mike Bellamy	5-10/185	Punta Gorda (FL) Charlotte	Clemson
40.	Mike Blakely	5-9/194	Bradenton (FL) Manatee	Florida
58.	Savon Huggins	6-0/190	Jersey City (NJ) St. Peter's Prep	Rutgers
61.	Aaron Green	5-10/191	San Antonio (TX) James Madison	Nebraska
63.	Kenny Hilliard	6-0/218	Patterson (LA) Patterson	LSU
73.	Herschel Sims	5-10/190	Abilene (TX) Abilene	Oklahoma State
85.	Justice Hayes	5-10/175	Grand Blanc (MI) Grand Blanc	Michigan
93.	Amir Carlisle	5-10/181	Sunnyvale (CA) Kings Academy	USC

WIDE RECEIVERS

3.	George Farmer	6-2/192	Gardena (CA) Junipero Serra	USC
12.	Trey Metoyer	6-2/198	Whitehouse (TX) Whitehouse	Oklahoma
15.	Sammy Watkins	6-1/180	Fort Myers (FL) South Fort Myers	Clemson
18.	Jarvis Landry	5-11/178	Lutcher (LA) Lutcher	LSU
35.	Devon Blackmon	6-0/175	Fontana (CA) Summit	Oregon
43.	Odell Beckham Jr.	5-10/165	New Orleans (LA) Isidore Newman School	LSU
51.	Nickolas Brassell	6-0/175	Batesville (MS) South Panola	Ole Miss
60.	Kelvin Benjamin	6-6/210	Belle Glade (FL) Glades Central	Florida State
62.	Jaxon Shipley	6-0/170	Brownwood (TX) Brownwood	Texas
78.	Marvin Shinn	6-3/177	Prichard (AL) Vigor	Alabama
83.	Charone Peake	6-3/200	Roebuck (SC) Dorman	Clemson
84.	DeAnthony Arnett	6-0/167	Saginaw (MI) Saginaw	Tennessee
98.	Kasen Williams	6-2/197	Sammamish (WA) Skyline	Washington

TIGHT ENDS

33.	Nick O'Leary	6-4/235	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	Florida State
39.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	6-7/250	Gig Harbor (WA) Gig Harbor	Washington
52.	Jace Amaro	6-5/237	San Antonio (TX) Macarthur	Texas Tech
56.	Jay Rome	6-5/255	Valdosta (GA) Valdosta	Georgia
57.	A.C. Leonard	6-2/232	Jacksonville (FL) Univ. Christian School	Florida
59.	Eric MacLain	6-5/245	Fayetteville (NC) Jack Britt	Clemson
82.	Ben Koyack	6-5/230	Oil City (PA) Oil City Senior	Notre Dame

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

4.	Cyrus Kouandjio	6-6/322	Hyattsville (MD) DeMatha	Alabama
6.	La'El Collins	6-5/285	Baton Rouge (LA) Redemptorist	LSU
27.	Christian Westerman	6-5/288	Chandler (AZ) Hamilton	Auburn
64.	Aundrey Walker	6-5/355	Cleveland (OH) Glenville Academic Campus	USC
66.	Brandon Shell	6-7/290	Charleston (SC) Goose Creek	South Carolina
67.	Tyler Moore	6-6/295	Clearwater (FL) Countryside	Nebraska
70.	Matthew Hegarty	6-5/265	Aztec (NM) Aztec	Notre Dame
74.	Antonio Richardson	6-6/310	Nashville (TN) Pearl-Cohn	Tennessee
77.	Bobby Hart	6-4/283	Fort Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	Florida State
79.	Reese Dismukes	6-4/287	Spanish Fort (AL) Spanish Fort	Auburn
90.	Greg Robinson	6-4/296	Thibodaux (LA) Thibodaux	Auburn

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1.	Jadeveon Clowney	6-6/247	Rock Hill (SC) South Pointe	South Carolina
9.	Ray Drew	6-5/243	Thomasville (GA) Thomas County Central	Georgia
16.	Ishaq Williams	6-6/230	Brooklyn (NY) Abraham Lincoln	Notre Dame
22.	Stephon Tuitt	6-5/260	Monroe (GA) Monroe Area	Notre Dame
28.	Aaron Lynch	6-6/245	Cape Coral (FL) Island Coast	Notre Dame
42.	Jeoffrey Pagan	6-4/272	Asheville (NC) Asheville	Alabama
44.	Anthony Chickillo	6-3/226	Tampa (FL) Alonso	Miami
46.	Greg Townsend Jr.	6-4/242	Beverly Hills (CA) Beverly Hills	USC
48.	Xzavier Dickson	6-3/238	Griffin (GA) Griffin	Alabama
65.	Anthony Zettel	6-4/254	West Branch (MI) Ogemaw Heights	Penn State
68.	Kenny Hayes	6-5/240	Toledo (OH) Whitmer	Ohio State
91.	Ben Councell	6-5/225	Asheville (NC) A. C. Reynolds	Notre Dame

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

17.	Anthony Johnson	6-4/298	New Orleans (LA) O. Perry Walker	LSU
29.	Timmy Jernigan	6-2/275	Lake City (FL) Columbia	Florida State
41.	Michael Bennett	6-3/275	Centerville (OH) Centerville	Ohio State
50.	Jordan Phillips	6-6/290	Towanda (KS) Circle	Oklahoma
80.	Delvon Simmons	6-5/265	McKeesport (PA) McKeesport	Texas Tech
94.	Christian Heyward	6-2/269	San Diego (CA) Point Loma	USC
95.	Desmond Jackson	6-1/278	Houston (TX) Westfield	Texas
99.	Viliami Moala	6-2/326	Sacramento (CA) Grant	California

LINEBACKERS

2.	Curtis Grant	6-3/222	Richmond (VA) Hermitage	Ohio State
13.	Tony Steward	6-2/225	St Augustine (FL) Pedro Menendez	Clemson
20.	Kris Frost	6-3/210	Matthews (NC) Butler	Auburn
21.	C.J. Johnson	6-3/235	Philadelphia (MS) Philadelphia	Ole Miss
24.	Stephone Anthony	6-3/220	Wadesboro (NC) Anson	Clemson
31.	Steve Edmond	6-3/245	Daingerfield (TX) Daingerfield	Texas
38.	Brent Calloway	6-1/210	Russellville (AL) Russellville	Alabama
45.	Lamar Dawson	6-2/230	Danville (KY) Boyle County	USC
54.	James Vaughters	6-2/233	Tucker (GA) Tucker	Stanford
55.	Lawrence Thomas	6-4/232	Detroit (MI) Renaissance	Michigan State
81.	Tre Madden	6-0/215	Mission Viejo (CA) Mission Viejo	USC
97.	Trey DePriest	6-2/231	Springfield (OH) Springfield	Alabama

DEFENSIVE BACKS

7.	Hasean Clinton-Dix	6-2/190	Orlando (FL) Dr. Phillips	Alabama
8.	Karlos Williams	6-2/210	Davenport (FL) Ridge	Florida State
30.	Malcolm Mitchell	6-1/187	Valdosta (GA) Valdosta	Georgia
37.	Marcus Roberson	6-1/170	Ft. Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	Florida
47.	Damian Swann	6-0/175	Atlanta (GA) Grady	Georgia
49.	Quandre Diggs	5-10/188	Angleton (TX) Angleton	Texas
69.	Erique Florence	6-2/181	Valley (AL) Valley	Auburn
92.	Demetrious Nicholson	5-11/167	Virginia Beach (VA) Bayside	Virginia
96.	Gerod Holliman	6-0/180	Miami (FL) Southridge	Louisville
100.	Charles Jackson	5-11/180	Klein (TX) Klein Collins	Nebraska

ATHLETES

5.	De'Anthony Thomas	5-9/160	Los Angeles (CA) Crenshaw	Oregon
26.	Colt Lyerla	6-5/225	Hillsboro (OR) Hillsboro	Oregon
36.	Marqise Lee	6-1/187	Gardena (CA) Junipero Serra	USC
53.	LaDarius Brown	6-2/190	Waxahachie (TX) Waxahachie	TCU
87.	Christian French	6-6/229	Cedar Rapids (IA) Kennedy	Oregon

100 FOR 2012

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

QUARTERBACKS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School
Anthony Alford	6-1/205	Petal, Mississippi/Petal
Jameis Winston	6-4/200	Hueytown, Alabama/Hueytown
Gunner Kiel	6-4/220	Columbus, Indiana/East
Zach Kline	6-2/192	Danville, California/San Ramon Valley
Zeke Pike	6-5/220	Edgewood, Kentucky/Dixie Heights

RUNNING BACKS

Brian Kimbrow	5-9/165	Memphis, Tennessee/Memphis East
Keith Marshall	5-11/190	Raleigh, North Carolina/Millbrook
Barry Sanders	5-11/190	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma/Heritage Hall
Bri'onte Dunn	6-2/215	Canton, Ohio/Glenoak
Byron Marshall	5-10/195	San Jose, California/Valley Christian
Johnathan Gray	5-11/190	Aledo, Texas/Aledo
Mario Pender	6-0/185	Cape Coral, Florida/Island Coast
Randy Johnson	5-9/170	Miami, Florida/Norland
Rushel Shell	6-0/210	Aliquippa, Pennsylvania/Hopewell
T.J. Yeldon	6-2/205	Daphne, Alabama/Daphne
Trey Williams	5-8/175	Spring, Texas/Dekaney

WIDE RECEIVERS

Avery Johnson	6-2/180	Pompano Beach, Florida/Blanche Ely
Bryce Treggs	5-10/157	Bellflower, California/St. John Bosco
Cayleb Jones	6-3/198	Austin, Texas/Austin
Chris Black	5-11/160	Jacksonville, Florida/First Coast
Davonte Neal	5-10/175	Scottsdale, Arizona/Chaparral
Deontay Greenberry	6-3/187	Fresno, California/Washington Union
Dorial Green-Beckham	6-6/220	Springfield, Missouri/Hillcrest
Durron Neal	6-1/184	St. Louis, Missouri/DeSmet
Jordan Payton	6-2/199	Westlake Village, California/Oaks Christian
Leonte Carroo	6-1/205	Ramsey, New Jersey/Don Bosco Prep
Stefon Diggs	6-1/189	Olney, Maryland/Our Lady Of Good Counsel
Thomas Johnson	6-0/180	Dallas, Texas/Skyline

TIGHT ENDS

Ricky Parks	6-3/210	Hogansville, Georgia/Callaway

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Evan Boehm	6-3/290	Lee's Summit, Missouri/Lee's Summit West
Andrus Peat	6-7/280	Tempe, Arizona/Corona Del Sol
Avery Young	6-6/273	Palm Beach Gardens, Florida/Palm Beach Gardens
Chris Muller	6-6/287	Boyertown, Pennsylvania/Boyertown Area Senior
D.J. Humphries	6-5/265	Charlotte, North Carolina/Mallard Creek
Erik Magnuson	6-6/275	Carlsbad, California/La Costa Canyon
Jessamen Dunker	6-6/215	Boynton Beach, Florida/Boynton Beach
John Michael McGee	6-4/255	Texarkana, Texas/Texas
John Theus	6-6/292	Jacksonville, Florida/Bolles
Jordan Simmons	6-5/333	Encino, California/Crespi
Josh Garnett	6-5/275	Puyallup, Washington/Puyallup
Kennedy Estelle	6-7/292	Pearland, Texas/Dawson
Kyle Kalis	6-5/302	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edward
Kyle Murphy	6-7/275	San Clemente, California/San Clemente
Zach Banner	6-9/310	Lakewood, Washington/Lakes

DEFENSIVE ENDS

Alex Balducci	6-4/262	Portland, Oregon/Central Catholic
Channing Ward	6-4/230	Aberdeen, Mississippi/Aberdeen
Darius Hamilton	6-4/245	Ramsey, New Jersey/Don Bosco Prep
Greg McMullen	6-5/255	Akron, Ohio/Hoban
Javonte Magee	6-5/262	San Antonio, Texas/Sam Houston
Adolphus Washington	6-4/230	Cincinnati, Ohio/Taft
Dante Fowler Jr	6-3/232	St. Petersburg, Florida/Lakewood
Eli Harold	6-4/215	Virginia Beach, Virginia/Ocean Lakes
Ifeadi Odenigbo	6-4/210	Centerville, Ohio/Centerville
Jordan Jenkins	6-3/245	Hamilton, Georgia/Harris County
Mario Edwards	6-4/275	Denton, Texas/Ryan
Noah Spence	6-4/245	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania/Bishop McDevitt
Torshiro Davis	6-3/222	Shreveport, Louisiana/Woodlawn
Tyriq McCord	6-3/222	Tampa, Florida/Jefferson

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Arik Armstead	6-8/280	Elk Grove, California/Pleasant Grove
Carlos Watkins	6-4/275	Forest City, North Carolina/Chase
Danny O'Brien	6-3/278	Flint, Michigan/Powers Catholic
Eddie Goldman	6-4/307	Washington DC/Friendship Collegiate Academy
Ellis McCarthy	6-5/311	Monrovia, California/Monrovia
Jarron Jones	6-5/305	Rochester, New York/Aquinas Institute
Jonathan Bullard	6-4/255	Shelby, North Carolina/Crest
Jonathan Taylor	6-4/315	Millen, Georgia/Jenkins County
Malcom Brown	6-2/280	Brenham, Texas/Brenham
Tommy Schutt	6-2/301	Glen Ellyn, Illinois/Glenbard West

LINEBACKERS

Quanzell Lambert	6-2/230	Sicklerville, New Jersey/Timber Creek
Brian Nance	6-3/210	Euless, Texas/Trinity
Jabari Ruffin	6-4/230	Downey, California/Downey
Kwon Alexander	6-2/212	Oxford, Alabama/Oxford
Noor Davis	6-4/215	The Villages, Florida/The Villages
Timothy Cole	6-2/220	Brenham, Texas/Brenham
Vince Biegel	6-3/210	Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin/Lincoln

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Geno Smith	6-0/175	Atlanta, Georgia/St Pius X School
Kevon Seymour	6-0/170	Pasadena, California/Muir
Tee Shepard	6-1/175	Fresno, California/Central East
Tracy Howard	6-0/170	Miramar, Florida/Miramar
Alex Carter	6-1/185	Ashburn, Virginia/Briar Woods
Elijah Shumate	6-1/205	Ramsey, New Jersey/Don Bosco Prep
Landon Collins	5-11/199	Geismar, Louisiana/Dutchtown
Shaq Thompson	6-2/210	Sacramento, California/Grant
Shaq Roland	6-1/170	Lexington, South Carolina/Lexington

ATHLETES

Alex Ross	6-1/205	Jenks, Oklahoma/Jenks
Chris Casher	6-4/225	Mobile, Alabama/Faith Academy
Cedric Dozier	5-11/175	Lakewood, Washington/Lakes
D.J. Foster	5-10/180	Scottsdale, Arizona/Saguaro
Darion Monroe	5-11/175	Reserve, Louisiana/East St. John
Deontay McManus	6-2/210	Baltimore, Maryland/Dunbar
Devin Fuller	6-0/185	Old Tappan, New Jersey/Old Tappan
Dominique Wheeler	6-1/176	Crockett, Texas/Crockett
Eddie Williams	6-4/197	Panama City, Florida/Arnold
Joel Caleb	6-3/200	Midlothian, Virginia/Clover Hill
Josh Harvey-Clemons	6-5/200	Valdosta, Georgia/Lowndes
Kendall Sanders	6-1/175	Athens, Texas/Athens
Nelson Agholor	6-2/180	Tampa, Florida/Berkeley Prep
Ronald Darby	5-11/172	Oxon Hill, Maryland/Potomac
Travis Blanks	6-1/195	Tallahassee, Florida/North Florida Christian
Zac Brooks	6-2/180	Jonesboro, Arkansas/Jonesboro Senior

TOP 10 SCHOOLS BY POSITION

Quarterback

1. Florida
2. USC
3. Ohio State
4. UCLA
5. Clemson
6. LSU
7. Arizona State
8. Auburn
8. Georgia
8. Oklahoma State

Running back

1. Florida State
2. Texas
3. Cal
4. Utah
5. Auburn
6. Alabama
7. Florida
8. Oklahoma
9. Clemson
9. Georgia

Wide Receiver

1. Clemson
1. USC
3. Oregon
4. Mississippi
5. LSU
6. Oklahoma
7. Alabama
8. Texas Tech
9. Florida State
10. Arkansas

Tight End

1. South Carolina
2. Auburn
2. Ohio State
4. Iowa
4. Wisconsin
6. Florida State
7. Washington
8. Florida
8. Georgia
8. Texas Tech

Offensive Line

1. Florida State
2. Nebraska
3. Alabama
4. USC
5. Auburn
6. LSU
7. Tennessee
8. Texas
9. South Carolina
10. North Carolina

Defensive Tackle

1. Florida State
2. Oklahoma
3. North Carolina
4. LSU
5. South Carolina
6. Rutgers
7. USC
8. Ohio State
9. Alabama
9. Georgia

Defensive End

1. Notre Dame
2. Alabama
3. Miami
4. Penn State
5. Georgia
6. Texas Tech
7. Ohio State
8. USC
9. South Carolina
10. Virginia Tech

Linebacker

1. Clemson
2. Ohio State
3. USC
4. Ole Miss
5. Texas
6. Michigan State
7. Auburn
8. Alabama
9. Oregon
10. Georgia

Defensive Back

1. Florida
2. Auburn
3. Florida State
4. Georgia
5. Texas
6. Louisville
7. Tennessee
8. Alabama
9. Virginia
10. Virginia Tech

Athlete

1. Oregon
2. TCU
3. USC
4. Virginia
5. Georgia
6. Georgia Tech
7. Tennessee
8. Nebraska
9. Iowa
10. Texas Tech

Kicker

1. USC
2. Texas A&M
3. Florida
4. Miami
5. Kansas
6. Arizona
6. North Carolina State
6. Louisiana-Monroe
6. UAB
10. Oklahoma State

PAC-12 RECRUITING

By Adam Gorney
Rivals.com

Southern California

Overview: USC finished with the fourth-best class nationally, led by five-star wide receiver **George Farmer** and 14 four-star signees, including quarterbacks **Cody Kessler** and **Max Wittek**, defensive end **Greg Townsend Jr.** and athlete **Marqise Lee**. The Trojans finished strong by flipping Stanford pledges **Amir Carlisle** and **Anthony Sarao**, getting **Cyrus Hobbi** out of Arizona and **Aundrey Walker** from Ohio.

Headliner: Farmer is the only five-star recruit in USC's class after Thomas left for Oregon, but the Gardena (Calif.) Serra wide receiver is a big pickup. Farmer is a game-changer early on and could be an immediate contributor for the Trojans. Rivals.com moved the 6-2, 192-pound prospect to third in the 2011 class after an impressive week at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl

Sleeper: **J.R. Tavai** played running back, defensive line and linebacker in high school but at 6-2, 260 pounds, the Redondo Beach (Calif.) Mira Costa athlete projects as a defensive end or tackle. Serra coach Scott Altenberg said Tavai was a "nightmare" so that's a good sign for Trojans' fans

Bottom line: Losing De'Anthony Thomas hurt, but even with NCAA sanctions looming, coach Lane Kiffin and his staff did an outstanding job. In fact, if Thomas stayed there was a good chance USC would have the best class for the second consecutive recruiting cycle.

Oregon

Overview: Oregon was the only school in the Pac-12 to get two five-star commitments in **De'Anthony Thomas**, who flipped from USC on Signing Day, and athlete **Colt Lyerla**, who was spectacular at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. California standouts **Devon Blackmon**, **Ifo Ekpre-Olomu** and **Rahsaan Vaughn** bolster the class. The Ducks also did well in Iowa of all places with JUCO defensive tackle **Jared Ebert** and athlete **Christian French**.

Headliner: There isn't one headliner in this class — there are two. Picking up five-star athlete Thomas late on National Signing Day from USC was a blockbuster move, one of the biggest switches in recent memory. He's a perfect fit for Oregon's offense at running back. The other is five-star linebacker Lyerla, a Brian Urlacher clone, who could get on the field from Day One.

Sleeper: Three-star dual-threat quarterback **Marcus Mariota** threw for 2,597 yards with 39 touchdowns and four interceptions while leading Honolulu (Hawaii) St. Louis to its first state championship since 2002. With his playmaking ability, Mariota is a perfect fit in Oregon's spread attack and could be a big addition to the class.

Bottom line: Oregon fans should be thrilled with this class. Thomas and Lyerla are without the headliners, but the Ducks loaded up with four-star recruits Blackmon, Ebert, Ekpre-Olomu, French and many others. Coach Chip Kelly and his staff loaded up after its national championship run and things should continue to get better moving to 2012.

California

Overview: Cal loaded up, especially on the defensive line, with five four-star commitments in **Viliami Moala**, **Mustafa Jalil**, **Jason Gibson**, **Todd Barr** and **Brennan Scarlett**. Running back was also a position of need and the Golden Bears landed four of those, led by **Brendon Bigelow**, who could become a star if he can recover from knee injuries. Defensive backs **Avery Walls** and **Stefan McClure** are two of 10 four-star commits in the class who could earn early playing time.

Headliner: A lot of signees could have landed in this spot, but the highest-rated by Rivals.com is Moala, a massive prospect who can plug the middle and make a lot of plays in the backfield by using his strength to break through the offensive line.

Sleeper: **C.J. Anderson** was a late addition to Cal's class, but the Oakland (Calif.) Laney College running back could be a nice piece to the Golden Bears' offensive puzzle. With Bigelow still recuperating from two knee injuries, Anderson knows the reputation of former Cal backs and said he wants to be the next big name in that special fraternity.

TOP 20 INCOMING PAC-12 RECRUITS

Rk.	Player	Ht./Wt.	Pos.	Hometown/School	College
1.	George Farmer	6-2/192	WR	Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra	USC
2.	De'Anthony Thomas	5-9/160	ATH	Los Angeles (Calif.) Crenshaw	Oregon
3.	Colt Lyerla	6-5/225	ATH	Hillsboro (Ore.) High	Oregon
4.	Devon Blackmon	6-0/175	WR	Fontana (Calif.) Summit	Oregon
5.	Marqise Lee	6-1/187	ATH	Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra	USC
6.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	6-6/250	TE	Gig Harbor (Wash.) High	Washington
7.	Lamar Dawson	6-2/230	LB	Danville (Ky.) Boyle County	USC
8.	Greg Townsend Jr.	6-4/242	DE	Beverly Hills (Calif.) High	USC
9.	James Vaughters	6-2/235	LB	Tucker (Ga.) High	Stanford
10.	Aundrey Walker	6-5/355	OG	Cleveland (Ohio) Glenville	USC
11.	Cody Kessler	6-1/208	QB	Bakersfield (Calif.) Centennial	USC
12.	Brett Hundley	6-4/210	QB	Chandler (Ariz.) High	UCLA
13.	Max Wittek	6-4/215	QB	Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei	USC
14.	Christian French	6-6/229	ATH	Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Kennedy	Oregon
15.	Amir Carlisle	5-10/181	RB	Sunnyvale (Calif.) Kings Academy	USC
16.	Christian Heyward	6-2/269	DT	San Diego (Calif.) Point Loma	USC
17.	Kasen Williams	6-2/197	WR	Sammamish (Wa.) Skyline	Washington
18.	Viliami Moala	6-2/326	DT	Sacramento (Calif.) Grant	California
19.	Wayne Lyons	6-0/190	S	Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Dillard	Stanford
20.	Cyrus Hobbi	6-4/285	OG	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro	USC

Bottom line: Coach Jeff Tedford and his staff couldn't be much happier with the recruiting class. Ten of 22 signees are four-star recruits and the Golden Bears did an outstanding job on the defensive line, with Moala and Jalil at defensive tackle and Gibson, Scarlett and Barr at defensive end. Landing four-star cornerback McClure late in the process was a big pickup.

Stanford

Overview: A coaching change could sometimes spell disaster, but going from Jim Harbaugh to David Shaw was a relatively smooth transition except for a few departures late in the recruiting process. Still, the Cardinal landed seven four-stars led by linebacker **James Vaughters**, defensive back **Wayne Lyons** and running backs **Remound Wright** and **Kelsey Young**.

Headliner: Vaughters could have gone to pretty much any team in the SEC, but the Tucker (Ga.) inside linebacker was serious about his education, too, and fell in love with Stanford. Even after Harbaugh left, the four-star prospect never wavered and it's a huge get for the Cardinal.

Sleeper: **Devon Cajuste** could be a really nice fit for the Cardinal. The 6-4, 220-pound target has a lot of potential and is definitely a big target in Stanford's offense. He was another prospect that never seriously considered other programs once Harbaugh left.

Bottom line: There were some big departures, namely four-star running back Amir Carlisle and four-star linebacker Anthony Sarao, after Harbaugh went to the San Francisco 49ers. But a lot of top prospects stayed in Stanford's class and that was important. The Cardinal avoided a meltdown.

Washington

Overview: Coach Steve Sarkisian and his staff locked up pretty much all the top talent in Washington, landing four of the top five players in the state, with tight end **Austin Seferian-Jenkins**, defensive tackle **Danny Shelton**, wide receiver **Kasen Williams** and running back **Bishop Sankey** all picking the Huskies. Getting four-star safety **James Sample** was also important.

Headliner: Seferian-Jenkins could have gone to Texas and no one would have blamed him because not many prospects turn down the Longhorns. But the Gig Harbor (Wash.) standout wanted to stay home and make a difference for the Huskies.

Sleeper: Las Vegas (Nev.) Bishop Gorman defensive back **Evan Zeger** was really impressive when we saw him during his senior season against Concord (Calif.) De La Salle. Zeger is aggressive, physical, athletic and competitive.

Bottom line: The Huskies loaded up with in-state talent from Seferian-Jenkins to Williams to Shelton to Sankey, who switched late from Washington State. Then getting Sample out of Sacramento (Calif.) Grant and a bunch of other top California standouts was impressive for the Huskies.

Utah

Overview: There were only two four-star prospects in the class in running back **Harvey Langi** and safety **Keith McGill**, but the Utes also landed 14 three-star recruits led by running back **John White**, linebacker **Jared Norris**, athlete **Quinton Pedroza** and a host of offensive linemen.

Headliner: Langi was seriously considering Stanford and other programs, but the four-star running back from South Jordon (Utah) Bingham decided to stay home and it's a huge pickup for the Utes. At 6-1, 220 pounds, Langi is a big back who has the potential to contribute early.

Sleeper: White, from Wilmington (Calif.) Los Angeles Harbor C.C., could be a nice sleeper in this class. Not many people are talking about him even though the junior college back had offers from Cincinnati, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Purdue and Washington State.

Bottom line: Langi and McGill are the two four-star prospects in a class that is also loaded with a bunch of three-star recruits. The Utes did well in-state and should be able to compete for more California stars now that they've joined the Pac-12. Losing quarterback commit Derrick Brown to Washington and not getting another QB in the class does hurt.

UCLA

Overview: UCLA was dragging down the stretch with an average class, but the Bruins closed strong by landing four-star wide receiver **Devin Lucien** and four-star defensive tackle **Kevin McReynolds**. Landing four-star quarterback **Brett Hundley** was crucial to UCLA's rebuilding on offense. Ten three-star commitments make UCLA's class respectable.

Headliner: Hundley has been called the "savior" of UCLA's program, but the Chandler (Ariz.) prospect doesn't want that pressure and it might be a stretch to put that on a freshman quarterback. Hundley could get a chance early on to play, though, and with a new offensive coordinator, positive-thinking UCLA fans could see it as a fresh start for an offense that struggled last season.

Sleeper: Ever since **Aaron Wallace Jr.** committed to the Bruins in July, there hasn't been a whole lot of talk about him. But the San Diego (Calif.) Rancho Bernardo signee was outstanding at the Los Angeles NIKE Camp and could be a nice addition to UCLA's defense.

Bottom line: Many called UCLA's class leading up to National Signing Day one of the most disappointing nationally. And while the Bruins didn't sign a blockbuster class — like they did with their 2010 class — there are some decent pieces to work with. Still, it's not a great class. Getting Lucien and McReynolds while keeping three-star offensive lineman **Torian White** in the class was important for the Bruins.

Arizona

Overview: The only four-star in Arizona's class was local running back **Ka'Deem Carey** who put up big-time numbers in his junior and senior seasons. The Wildcats landed 15 three-star prospects led by running back **Jared Baker**, defensive end **Lamar De Rego**, linebacker **Rob Hankins** and wide receiver **Patrick Onwuasor**. It was not a spectacular class for Arizona, but coach Mike Stoops did get some solid prospects at positions of need.

Headliner: Carey had been committed to Arizona for months, but he made the coaching staff sweat as he looked at in-state rival Arizona

State all the way until the end. But the Oro Valley (Ariz.) Canyon Del Oro standout stuck with the Wildcats.

Sleeper: **Addison Bachman** played at Glendora (Calif.) Citrus C.C. this past season, so he's mature and ready to play early for the Wildcats. In fact, that was one of the big reasons he liked Arizona so much — because he can come in early and make an impact playing center.

Bottom line: Both Arizona and Arizona State struggled to keep the top in-state talent home. There is only one four-star, so this isn't an outstanding class, but it fills some needs. Coach Mike Stoops and his staff did a good job landing numerous junior college prospects, who could contribute early, and a nice mix of prep standouts at the skill positions who can grow into their roles.

Oregon State

Overview: Wide receiver **Brandin Cooks** was the only four-star in Oregon State's class and the former UCLA commit is a big pickup because he put up big numbers in his senior season and shined at the Palo Alto NIKE Camp. Defensive end **Dylan Wynn** is a monster who could earn early playing time and coach Mike Riley always lands some sleepers who produce. Some of those this cycle could be lineman **Akeem Gonzales** and receivers **Richard Mullaney** and **Tyler Trosin**.

Headliner: Cooks emerged on the national scene at the Palo Alto NIKE Camp and then committed to UCLA. But after visiting Oregon State, he knew that Corvallis was the right place for him. Cooks is fast and elusive, and had a big senior season with 66 catches for 1,125 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Sleeper: Trosin just earned his third star, but for most of his recruitment, the Folsom (Calif.) wide receiver was a two-star prospect and definitely undervalued. Arizona State, Iowa State and Washington State had also offered Trosin, who finished with 70 catches for 1,303 yards and 27 touchdowns in his senior year.

Bottom line: Oregon State compiled a nice class — a bunch of blue-collar guys who fit in well with Riley's system. Wynn is an outstanding prospect who could make a difference early. The Beavers addressed numerous needs and although it's not the highest-rated class in the conference, it's a good group moving forward.

Arizona State

Overview: The Sun Devils loaded up at quarterback with four-star **Michael Eubank** and three-star **Michael Bercovici**, who could both earn early playing time. Four-star center **Mo Latu** had offers from Oregon, Missouri and others, but decided to stay closer to home and it's a big pickup. Three-star athlete **Ezekiel Bishop** and three-star linebacker **Isreal Marshall** could get on the field early.

Headliner: Eubank has star potential. The four-star dual-threat quarterback has been described as a poor man's Cam Newton and while he's not as polished yet, the Corona (Calif.) Centennial standout can run and throw the ball with some of the best quarterbacks in the country.

Sleeper: Two-star **Gary Chambers** could develop into a nice Pac-12 wide receiver. The 6-3, 195-pound prospect from Glendale (Ariz.) Ironwood put up nice numbers in his junior and senior seasons, so he's shown consistency and a lot of talent on the high school level. Last season, Chambers had 38 catches for 655 yards and seven scores.

Bottom line: Arizona State won out for Latu, the nation's second-best center by Rivals.com, but missed out on many top recruits such as Cyrus Hobbi, Todd Peat and many others who very easily could have picked the Sun Devils. It was a difficult recruiting cycle in many ways for coach Dennis Erickson and his staff, but the bright spot was at quarterback by signing Eubank and Bercovici.

Washington State

Overview: The Cougars closed strong by landing four-star offensive guard **Alex Mitchell**, athlete **Rahmel Dockery**, tight end **Mansel Simmons** and linebacker **Darryl Paulo** late in the recruiting process. Three-star linebacker **Logan Mayes** could also turn into a special player.

Headliner: Dockery came in late, but Washington State will take the undersized athlete. The University Place (Wash.) Curtis standout could be a nice addition on either offense or defense. Oregon State, Hawaii and others were involved with Dockery

Sleeper: **Marcus Mason** is a tough running back who was undervalued in Southern California but was impressive at camps. Mason runs as if he's never going to get tackled and tries to explode through defensive players.

Bottom line: Washington State signed some nice players, but losing Bishop Sankey (Washington) and Stephane Nembot (Colorado) really could hurt in the long run. Dockery is a nice pickup and Max Gama, Max Hersey, Rico Forbes and Simmons are some other three-stars who could help the Cougars.

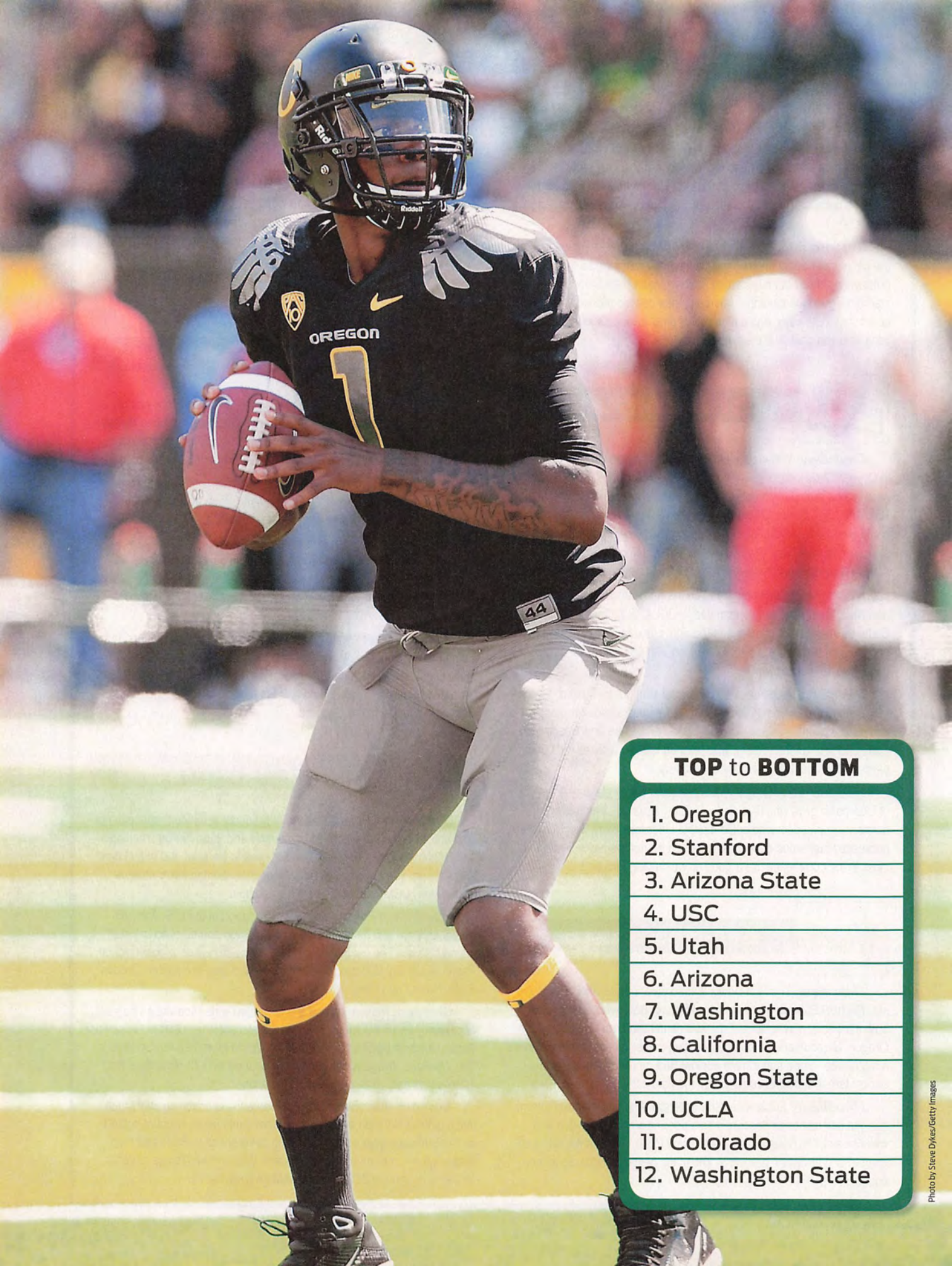
Colorado

Overview: Colorado was the only school in the conference to not land any four-star prospects, but defensive end **Juda Parker**, running back **Malcolm Creer**, defensive end **Stephane Nembot** and others can definitely provide early assistance. Three-star lineman **Marc Mustoe** flipped from UCLA and could be a big addition.

Headliner: Parker was surprisingly good at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and he fell in love with Colorado and its coaching staff during his visit. The top player in Hawaii is the Buffaloes' biggest pickup. Parker is a 6-2, 245-pound defensive end who also considered Oregon State, Hawaii and many others.

Sleeper: **Nelson Spruce** is a three-star wide receiver, so he's not necessarily under the radar, but after the statistics he put up in his senior season it was a bit of a surprise that he wasn't more heavily recruited. The Westlake Village (Calif.) Westlake finished with 73 receptions for 1,292 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

Bottom line: Coach Jon Embree and his coaching staff came into a difficult situation and had a commendable finish. Nembot settled on the Buffaloes after being committed to Washington State and then Washington. Creer picked Colorado over Washington. Things have settled now and the 2012 class should be even better.



TOP to **BOTTOM**

1. Oregon
2. Stanford
3. Arizona State
4. USC
5. Utah
6. Arizona
7. Washington
8. California
9. Oregon State
10. UCLA
11. Colorado
12. Washington State

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

PICKING **THE PAC-12**

Champ of the New Pac-12? Same as the Champ of Old Pac-10

It's a new era for the old Pac-10.

Not only is the Pac-12 split into two six-team divisions with the winner decided in a conference title game, but there's a new undisputed king. That would be the cutting-edge Oregon Ducks, with an offense as flashy and blinding as their uniform colors and combinations.

The Ducks were a fluke play away (fluky in their eyes, anyway) from potentially winning the national championship last season, and they return enough key parts to enter 2011 as the consensus favorite to win the conference for a third straight year.

And if the Ducks adequately fill some holes on the offensive and defensive lines, they will contend again for the national title.

Oregon's fast-paced offense will feature one of the best 1-2 punches in the nation — quarterback Darron Thomas and running back LaMichael James. And cornerback Cliff Harris, one of the best in the country at his position, leads a defense that is often underrated.

Other conference contenders face more pressing issues. Can Stanford adjust to life without Jim Harbaugh? Can Arizona State handle the pressure of being expected to win the Pac-12 South? And what of USC and its NCAA sanctions?

NORTH

While Oregon is the favorite, there is much to like about the Cardinal, notably the return of quarterback Andrew Luck. He'll play what certainly will be his final college season for a new coach; former offensive coordinator David Shaw takes over for Harbaugh, now the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Stanford gets Oregon at home on Nov. 12 in what looks like the conference Game of the Year.

Washington won a bowl game last year for the first time in a decade, but lost quarterback Jake Locker to the NFL. The Huskies figure to still need a few more years of Steve Sarkisian's rebuilding before truly contending.

Cal has a first-rate defense but major quarterback issues. Oregon State lost running back Jacquizz Rodgers early to the NFL; the status of his brother James,

PAC-12 Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
NORTH			
1. Oregon	All that skill runs an offense that's unsolvable to most; defense again good enough.	Some significant losses on both fronts, and did Auburn show how to slow the Ducks?	Ducks should get past Stanford in the North and be the class of the new Pac-12.
2. Stanford	Andrew Luck is the best QB in America; Cardinal has two of the best OL, too.	Will Cardinal be able to sustain momentum of 2010 with Jim Harbaugh now with 49ers?	Luck's surprising return should ease the transition to coach David Shaw — for a year, anyway.
3. Washington	RB Chris Polk, WR Jermaine Kearse are playmakers; young D should continue to improve.	Offense may take awhile to find its footing with Jake Locker gone.	Steve Sarkisian has UW on right track ... but title contention may still be a year or two away.
4. California	Defense, particularly front seven, should be good enough to keep Bears in most games.	Offense, lacking a real leader, might not score enough to win any of those games.	If Jeff Tedford can solve inexplicable inability to find a QB, Bears could get back to postseason.
5. Oregon State	QB Ryan Katz could take big leap in second year; OL, secondary could be salty.	Jacquizz Rodgers is gone; James Rodgers is questionable; major questions on defensive front.	Lack of star power probably means the Beavers won't reverse last year's downturn.
6. Washington St.	QB Jeff Tuel and WR corps lead a passing attack that could be as good as many in Pac-12.	Running game, defensive front seven still seem a long way away.	Cougs may win a few more games, but it may not be enough to save Paul Wulff's job.
SOUTH			
1. Arizona State	Lots of experience everywhere; defense could be the best in conference.	ASU has yet to show it can turn potential into consistent winning.	This is the team Dennis Erickson has been waiting for; it'll be enough to win weak South.
2. USC	Matt Barkley, Robert Woods lead what could be super offense; still lots of talent here.	Holes remain on defense ... and it's hard to read USC's psyche.	USC has Top 25 material, but too many questions hover over the program.
3. Utah	Kyle Whittingham has built a program that expects to win every year.	But how will the Utes handle stepping up in class?	If QB Jordan Wynn returns healthy and in top form, Utes should handle transition just fine.
4. Arizona	QB Nick Foles, WR Juron Criner lead what may be best passing attack in Pac-12.	OL has major rebuilding; Wildcats lost momentum with five-game losing streak to end 2010.	UA should again get to a minor bowl, but will that be enough to satisfy fans?
5. UCLA	After tweaking, offense has to be better; young talent should start to blossom.	Bruins have no idea who the QB will be; Rick Neuheisel's hot seat could dominate discussion.	Bruins still seem a year or two away, which might not be soon enough for Neuheisel.
6. Colorado	New coach Jon Embree brings a new attitude; some decent young skill players.	Defense, especially back seven (other than LB Jon Major), may not hold up to Pac-12 offenses.	If QB Tyler Hansen stays upright and players buy into Embree, Buffs could pull some upsets.

Lindy's 2011 ALL-PAC-12 Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Andrew Luck	Jr.	Stanford
RB	LaMichael James	Jr.	Oregon
RB	Chris Polk	Jr.	Washington
WR	Juron Criner	Sr.	Arizona
WR	Jermaine Kearse	Sr.	Washington
TE	David Paulson	Sr.	Oregon
C	Garth Gerhart	Sr.	Arizona State
OL	David DeCastro	Jr.	Stanford
OL	Michael Philipp	Jr.	Oregon State
OL	Jonathan Martin	Jr.	Stanford
OL	Matt Kalil	Jr.	USC
AP	Robert Woods	So.	USC
K	Rob Beard	Jr.	Oregon

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Alameda Ta'amu	Sr.	Washington
DL	Junior Onyeali	So.	Arizona State
DL	Nick Perry	Jr.	USC
DL	Datone Jones	Jr.	UCLA
LB	Mychal Kendricks	Sr.	Cal
LB	Vontaze Burfict	Jr.	Arizona State
LB	Shayne Skov	Jr.	Stanford
DB	Delano Howell	Sr.	Stanford
DB	Cliff Harris	Jr.	Oregon
DB	T.J. McDonald	Jr.	USC
DB	Tony Dye	Sr.	UCLA
P	Bryan Anger	Sr.	Cal

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Darron Thomas	Jr.	Oregon
RB	Rodney Stewart	Sr.	Colorado
RB	Stepfan Taylor	Jr.	Stanford
WR	Marquess Wilson	So.	Washington State
WR	Marvin Jones	Sr.	Cal
TE	Coby Fleener	Sr.	Stanford
C	Grant Johnson	Sr.	Oregon State
OL	Tony Bergstrom	Sr.	Utah
OL	Mike Remmers	Sr.	Oregon State
OL	Mitchell Schwartz	Sr.	Cal
OL	Mark Asper	Sr.	Oregon
AP	Josh Huff	So.	Oregon
K	Erik Folk	Sr.	Washington

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Hau'oli Jamora	So.	Washington
DL	Travis Long	Jr.	Washington State
DL	Star Lotulelei	Jr.	Utah
DL	Christian Tupou	Sr.	USC
LB	Jon Major	Jr.	Colorado
LB	Paul Vassallo	Sr.	Arizona
LB	Sean Westgate	Sr.	UCLA
DB	Trevin Wade	Sr.	Arizona
DB	John Boyett	Jr.	Oregon
DB	Sean Cattouse	Sr.	Cal
DB	Lance Mitchell	Sr.	Oregon State
P	Jeff Locke	Jr.	UCLA

a standout receiver, was uncertain at the end of spring due to a knee injury.

And WSU merely hopes it can win enough games to save the job of fourth-year coach Paul Wulff. The Cougars have promising quarterback Jeff Tuel, but still need major upgrades on both lines.

SOUTH

The South appears to be a two-team race between ASU — which returns almost every significant player off a team that went 6-6 last year — and USC.

The Sun Devils could have a dynamic defense, led by middle linebacker Vontaze Burfict, although ASU took a potentially big hit in the spring when cornerback Omar Bolden suffered a significant knee injury. ASU also may have found a quarterback late in the season in junior Brock Osweiler. But ASU also has to shed a deserved label of underachiever.

USC will again have enough talent to compete with any team in the conference (well, maybe not Oregon), but after spring ball the program was still unsure about an NCAA appeal. If it wins, it could be eligible for the conference title and bowl games. In any case, the Trojans have lost their aura of invincibility.

The South contains the two newcomers to the conference — Utah and Colorado. Utah won 10 games last year in its final season in the Mountain West, but the Utes were soundly defeated in tests against elite squads and they have even more question marks this year. Colorado is in a rebuilding mode under first-year coach Jon Embree.

Arizona won seven games last year, but lost its last five, including a blowout loss to Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl, raising questions whether Mike Stoops can elevate the Wildcats further.

UCLA is mostly hoping to win enough games to save the job of fourth-year coach Rick Neuheisel, who has had surprising struggles trying to revive the Bruins.

Expansion means a different format to the season as the division winners will play for the Pac-12 title — and the automatic BCS berth — at the home of the team with the best record.

Figure the Ducks to come flying high out of that game, breaking in the new Pac-12 the way they did the final year of the Pac-10.

— Bob Condotta

Most Valuable Player

Andrew Luck
QB, Stanford

Offensive Player of the Year

LaMichael James
RB, Oregon

Defensive Player of the Year

Vontaze Burfict
LB, Arizona State

Newcomer of the Year

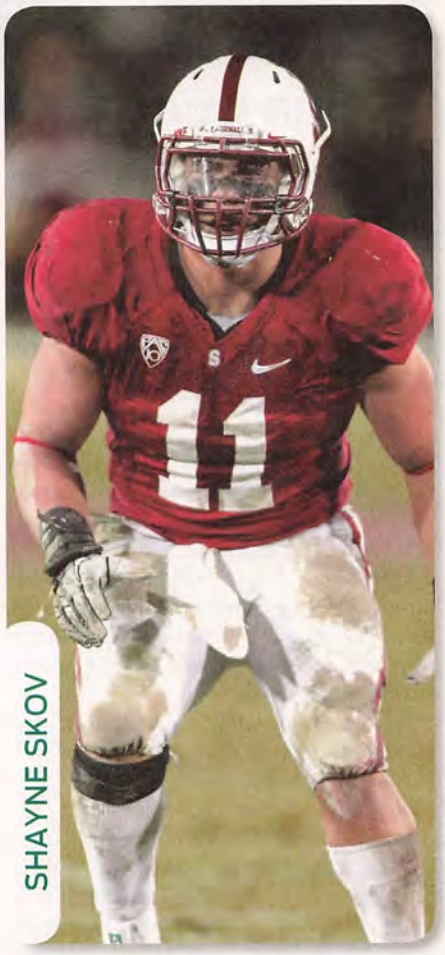
Kasen Williams
WR, Washington

HONOR ROLL

Most accurate passer	Andrew Luck	Stanford
Strongest arm	Matt Barkley	USC
Best scrambler	Darron Thomas	Oregon
Coolest in the clutch	Andrew Luck	Stanford
Toughest to bring down	Chris Polk	Washington
Best hands	Robert Woods	USC
Most dangerous deep threat	Marquess Wilson	Washington State
Best pass blocker	Jonathan Martin	Stanford
Best run blocker	David DeCastro	Stanford
Best cover corner	Cliff Harris	Oregon
Best pass rusher	Junior Onyeali	Arizona State
Special teams demon	Chris Galippo	USC

THE **BIG** ONES

Sept. 3	
Oregon vs. LSU (Arlington)	Might be Oregon's biggest obstacle on the road to national title game.
UCLA at Houston	Rick Neuheisel needs to get his Bruins off to a quick start.
Sept. 8	
Arizona at Oklahoma State	Wildcats get chance to avenge a sound Alamo Bowl defeat.
Sept. 10	
Utah at USC	Early measuring stick for Utes in first conference game.
Missouri at Arizona State	First big test whether the Sun Devils are for real.
Oregon State at Wisconsin	Beavers hope this isn't another early-season cross-country blowout.
Sept. 17	
Texas at UCLA	Think the Longhorns will remember what happened in 2010?
Washington at Nebraska	Third meeting in past two years will be the rubber match.
Utah at BYU	Utes' Pac-12 move means this bitter rivalry now an early-season affair.
Sept. 24	
USC at Arizona State	Early battle for supremacy in the new South.
Oct. 1	
Washington at Utah	Huskies hope to spoil Utah's first home Pac-12 game.
Oct. 6	
Cal at Oregon	Bears just missed Ducks last season, losing 15-13 in Berkeley.
Oct. 15	
Arizona State at Oregon	This could be a preview of the Pac-12 title game in same venue.
Oct. 22	
USC at Notre Dame	Lane Kiffin needs to re-establish dominance Pete Carroll had in this series.
Oct. 29	
Stanford at USC	Might not be the same without either Jim Harbaugh or Pete Carroll.
Nov. 4	
USC at Colorado	Pac-12 gets early look at its new plan to play regularly on Friday nights.
Nov. 5	
Oregon at Washington	Last game at Husky Stadium before it gets $250 million renovation.
Nov. 12	
Washington at USC	Steve Sarkisian is 2-0 against former team, both on last-second field goals.
Oregon at Stanford	Could decide Pac-12 North and derail someone's national title hopes.
Nov. 19	
USC at Oregon	Oregon has outscored USC 100-52 in the past two years.
Arizona at Arizona State	Wildcats still smarting over blocked PATs in last year's loss.
Cal at Stanford	Bears look for revenge for 2010 humiliation in Berkeley.
Nov. 26	
Washington State at Washington	Rivals will play at Qwest Field in Seattle, home of the Seahawks.
UCLA at USC	This one could serve as a referendum on both coaches.
Oregon State at Oregon	Ducks have won three in a row by combined 139-91.
Notre Dame at Stanford	Could be a key last test for Cardinal's BCS hopes.
Dec. 3	
Pac-12 Championship Game	The very first one, at the home of the team with the best record.



SHAYNE SKOV

Photo by Rob Holt/ SportPics

BOWL CONNECTIONS

PAC-12 Champion
BCS (national title game if ranked #1 or #2, otherwise Rose)

Pac-12 #2	Alamo vs. Big 12 #3
Pac-12 #3	Holiday vs. Big 12 #5
Pac-12 #4	Sun Bowl vs. ACC #4
Pac-12 #5	Maaco Bowl Las Vegas vs. MWC #1
Pac-12 #6	Kraft Fight Hunger vs. Army (if bowl eligible)

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Andrew Luck	QB	Jr.	Stanford	Would have been No. 1 pick in 2011; will be in 2012.
2. Vontaze Burfict	MLB	Jr.	Arizona State	Showing more maturity could only help his stock.
3. Matt Kalil	LT	Jr.	USC	Not a lot of college accolades yet, but high on NFL radar.
4. Cliff Harris	CB	Jr.	Oregon	Shutdown corner also an elite returner (ala Deion Sanders?).
5. Matt Barkley	QB	Jr.	USC	If he cuts down INTs, could easily move into top 10.
6. Jonathan Martin	LT	Jr.	Stanford	Scouts are noticing how much time Luck always has to pass.
7. LaMichael James	RB	Jr.	Oregon	Some may question if numbers are due to system, but he's elite talent.
8. Omar Bolden	CB	Sr.	Arizona State	Would have been higher if not for spring ACL injury.
9. Alameda Ta'amu	DT	Sr.	Washington	Could rise quickly at a high position of need for NFL teams.
10. Nick Foles	QB	Sr.	Arizona	Has size (6-5, 245) and booming arm that scouts crave.

Some Coaches Want a Little Less of the League

Many Pac-10 coaches hoped that the addition of two teams might mean the subtraction of one conference game.

The Pac-10 had been the only BCS conference playing a full round-robin schedule, the conference taking pride in being able to crown a "true" regular-season champion.

But with Utah and Colorado coming aboard, that's no longer possible, and for many coaches, it seemed like a good time to go back to playing eight conference games. The Pac-10 went to the round-robin schedule in 2006.

Instead, the Pac-12 decided to stick with nine conference games — meaning each team can schedule just three non-conference games — which left some coaches shaking their heads.

"It makes no sense," said UCLA's Rick Neuheisel, maybe the most outspoken coach on the topic.

Neuheisel, in fact, railed against it during a Seattle radio interview in April, saying that the conference had been "sold a bill of goods" by the Big Ten that it was going to go to nine conference games when it expanded to 12 teams. The Big Ten instead stayed at eight.

Coaches note the obvious — that playing an extra conference game assures six losses for conference teams. Many would prefer to play eight conference games, which would allow more flexibility in scheduling (and, for most, would mean an easier opponent).

Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott stated that the conference felt there was value in not being perceived as "buying wins" or padding schedules.

Another factor was assuring that as many teams as possible get a trip to Los Angeles every season. In the 10-team conference, every team was assured a trip every year to either USC or UCLA, something it could sell to potential recruits in Southern California. Now, two of the Northwest teams (Oregon, Oregon State, Washington and Washington State) will not have a trip every year, a situation that would have impacted more teams had the conference schedule dipped to eight games.

Neuheisel and Oregon State's Mike Riley also said the ninth conference game was a key reason the Pac-10 was able to qualify just four teams for bowls last season.

"It hampers everybody," Neuheisel said.

Officially, the issue is dead for a while as the conference released nine-game conference schedules through 2018.

But count on the coaches to keep this issue percolating.

Ranking the schedules

Since Pac-12 teams no longer play every conference opponent, which teams get the most favorable "misses" could go a long way toward determining conference standings.

Consider that Utah misses Stanford and Oregon, while fellow South member Arizona misses potential North bottom feeders Washington State and Cal.

Here's a look at each team's schedules from toughest to easiest:

1. Oregon State — The Beavers, who perennially take on one of the toughest schedules in the conference, will play at Wisconsin and host BYU. OSU has just four Pac-12 home games, visiting both division favorites, Oregon and Arizona State.

Conference misses: USC, Colorado

2. UCLA — Neuheisel won't have the easiest route to the winning record he just might need to keep his job. UCLA starts at dangerous Houston, then hosts revenge-minded Texas two weeks later. UCLA also has five conference road games. While the Bruins miss Oregon, they have to go to Oregon State, Stanford and Arizona in their first four conference games.

Conference misses: Oregon, Washington

3. Colorado — There's nothing easy about the Buffs' first season in the Pac-12. A visit to Hawaii means 13 games, and the Buffs go to Ohio State. Colorado also has an odd non-conference game at home with Cal. The game was scheduled prior to expansion and neither school could find a suitable replacement, so they kept it as a non-conference game. CU also visits Stanford and Arizona State.

Conference misses: Cal, Oregon State

FOUR-YEAR STANDINGS

Team	Record	Pct.	All	Pct.	Ch	M	B	Comment
Oregon	29-7	.806	41-11	.788	2	2	4	Soaring with 32 wins in three years to claim superiority.
USC	25-11	.694	39-13	.750	2	2	3	Are back-to-back eight-win seasons their rock bottom?
Oregon State	23-13	.639	31-20	.608	0	0	3	Was last year's step back a burp or start of a trend?
Stanford	21-15	.583	29-21	.580	0	1	2	With any Luck, they'll continue to rise through the roof.
Arizona	19-17	.528	28-25	.528	0	0	3	A fourth straight bowl would be a school record.
Arizona State	17-19	.472	25-24	.510	1	0	1	Three bowl-less seasons aren't what Erickson had in mind.
California	17-19	.472	29-22	.569	0	0	3	From 9 wins, to 8, to 5 ... Tedford has to turn it around.
UCLA	13-23	.361	21-29	.420	0	0	2	One step forward, two steps back.
Washington	11-25	.306	16-34	.320	0	0	1	Turned the corner and trying to head upfield.
Washington State	5-31	.139	10-39	.204	0	0	0	At least they can see the corner now, can't they?

NOTE: C=Championship or co-championship; M=Major Bowl (BCS); B=Bowls

4. USC — USC's annual game with Notre Dame may be enough to keep it among the toughest slates in the conference each year. USC plays at Cal on a Thursday night and Colorado on a Friday night.

Conference misses: Oregon State, Washington State

5. Oregon — An opening game against LSU (Arlington) will be among the must-see college football games of the season, and the Ducks return home the next week to play Nevada, which may not be as good as a year ago, but could still be salty.

Conference misses: UCLA, Utah

6. Arizona — The Wildcats get two non-conference breathers (Northern Arizona, Louisiana) but travel to preseason Top 10 Oklahoma State and probably have the toughest conference schedule with five road games and contests against every apparent top-division contender.

Conference misses: Washington State, Cal

7. Cal — The Bears face new conference member Colorado in a non-conference game, host Fresno State and were forced to schedule a home game with Presbyterian of the FCS in a desperate attempt to get a 12th game. Cal gets the tough end of the conference slate, though, playing at ASU, Stanford and Oregon.

Conference misses: Colorado, Arizona

8. Utah — Despite Utah's favorable conference misses, the Utes will be challenged by a non-conference slate that includes games at Pitt and rival BYU, the latter a week after the Utes open Pac-12 play at USC.

Conference misses: Stanford, Oregon

9. Arizona State — ASU gets four of its first five at home, including a non-conference game against Missouri, sandwiched around a trip to Illinois. ASU, though, has just one home game from Oct. 1 to Nov. 19.

Conference misses: Stanford, Washington

10. Washington — UW will be hoping for a 2-0 start (Eastern Washington and then WAC favorite Hawaii at home) before a trip to Nebraska — its third game against the Cornhuskers in a year. The Huskies get five conference home games and don't have to play South favorite ASU.

Conference misses: UCLA, Arizona State

11. Stanford — The Cardinal should be favored to win its first seven games (the toughest being a trip to Arizona, and including non-conference layups against Duke and San Jose State) before the slate toughens. Still, Stanford gets five conference games at home and seven overall, including Oregon, Cal and Notre Dame on consecutive weeks to end the year.

Conference misses: Utah, Arizona State

12. Washington State — Hope for Paul Wulff keeping his job rests in an easy schedule that has some Cougar fans dreaming of a 5-0 start — home games against Idaho State and UNLV before visits to San Diego State, Colorado and UCLA. How about 3-2?

Conference misses: Arizona, USC

Four-year standings

Oregon has taken control, using its big 2010 season to pass USC in the four-year standings in terms of overall victories and conference wins. And that gap should only get wider from here, with the Trojans facing NCAA sanctions. Question is, who, if anybody, is going to emerge from the pack, to challenge the Ducks in the new Pac-12?

PAC-10 IN THE NFL DRAFT

The Pac-10 ranked third among conferences with 31 draft picks. That overall draft number would have swelled to 37 if you added in the four from Colorado and two from Utah — but those schools won't start counting until the 2012 draft.

The league has produced a modest five first-round picks in the past two seasons — three from Cal. USC has sent 16 players into the draft in the past two years, including nine in 2011. Meanwhile, Washington State got back on the draft board after being shut out in 2010 for the first time since 1994.

ARIZONA	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Brooks Reed	DE	2	42	Texans
Ricky Elmore	DE	6	197	Packers
D'Aundre Reed	DE	7	215	Vikings

ARIZONA STATE	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Lawrence Guy	DT	7	233	Packers

CALIFORNIA	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Cameron Jordan	DE	1	24	Saints
Shane Vereen	RB	2	56	Patriots
Chris Conte	DB	3	93	Bears
Mike Mohamed	LB	6	189	Broncos

OREGON	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Casey Matthews	LB	4	116	Eagles

OREGON STATE	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Stephen Paea	DT	2	53	Bears
Gabe Miller	OLB	5	140	Chiefs
Jacquizz Rodgers	RB	5	145	Falcons

STANFORD	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Sione Fua	DL	3	97	Panthers
Owen Marecic	RB	4	124	Browns
Richard Sherman	DB	5	154	Seahawks
Ryan Whalen	WR	6	167	Bengals

UCLA	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Akeem Ayers	LB	2	39	Titans
Rahim Moore	FS	2	45	Broncos
David Carter	DT	6	184	Cardinals

USC	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Tyron Smith	OT	1	9	Cowboys
Jurrell Casey	DL	3	77	Titans
Shareece Wright	DB	3	89	Chargers
Jordan Cameron	TE	4	102	Browns
Ronald Johnson	WR	6	182	49ers
Allen Bradford	RB	6	187	Buccaneers
Stanley Havili	RB	7	240	Eagles
David Ausberry	WR	7	241	Raiders
Malcolm Smith	OLB	7	242	Seahawks

WASHINGTON	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Jake Locker	QB	1	8	Titans
Mason Foster	LB	3	84	Buccaneers

WASHINGTON STATE	POS	RND	OVERALL	TEAM
Zachary Williams	OL	6	203	Panthers

RATING THE PAC-12

QUARTERBACKS

1. STANFORD
2. ARIZONA
3. OREGON
4. USC
5. WASHINGTON STATE
6. ARIZONA STATE
7. UTAH
8. OREGON STATE
9. COLORADO
10. UCLA
11. WASHINGTON
12. CAL

In terms of returning starters, few conferences figure to be as deep as the Pac-12. Every team returns a quarterback who has started at least one game, and all but Washington has a quarterback who has started multiple games.

Stanford figured to be the odd man out on that list until Andrew Luck made the surprising decision to return for another year. His presence alone puts Stanford at the top of this list, although the drop-off to the second-stringer is steep.

After Luck, there is a solid group of young or emerging stars, including Oregon's Darron Thomas, who led the Ducks to the national title game last year in his first as a starter. Thomas, USC's Matt Barkley and Arizona's Nick Foles are all-conference-caliber players.

Washington State's Jeff Tuel, a solid runner and accurate passer, could bust out if he can get some more help from his supporting cast. Arizona State's Brock Osweiler doesn't have a lot of experience, but he ended the 2010 season on a hot streak.

Utah (Jordan Wynn), Oregon State (Ryan Katz), Colorado (Tyler Hansen) and UCLA (Kevin Prince, Richard Brehaut) all return starters, though there are questions due to injury or lack of production.

RUNNING BACKS

1. OREGON
2. WASHINGTON
3. COLORADO
4. USC
5. STANFORD
6. UCLA
7. ARIZONA STATE
8. CAL
9. ARIZONA
10. UTAH
11. OREGON STATE
12. WASHINGTON STATE

Of the top 10 running backs in the conference last year, only one was a senior — USC's Allen Bradford. Two others declared early for the NFL — Oregon State's Jacquizz Rodgers and Cal's Shane Vereen.

Everyone else returns, making this one of the better groups of runners the conference has had in a while.

That's especially true when you throw in Colorado's Rodney Stewart, who rushed for 1,318 yards last year and now joins the Pac-12.

It also helped that the two leading rushers in the Pac-10 last season — Oregon's LaMichael James and Washington's Chris Polk — decided to return for their redshirt junior seasons. Their decisions to stay — as well as some promising youngsters behind them — put Oregon and UW at the top of the running back list this season.

Stewart gives Colorado a solid threat, and the Trojans — despite the loss of Bradford — remain deep in talent with Marc Tyler back for his senior year. Perhaps Dillon Baxter can figure things out this season.

Stanford's Stepfan Taylor (1,137 yards) might have been one of the more unheralded 1,000-yard rushers last season. UCLA's Johnathan Franklin is back after rushing for 1,127 yards in 2010.

RECEIVERS

1. ARIZONA
2. WASHINGTON
3. USC
4. OREGON STATE
5. COLORADO
6. WASHINGTON STATE
7. ARIZONA STATE
8. OREGON
9. CAL
10. UTAH
11. STANFORD
12. UCLA

The return of Juron Criner, who considered leaving for the NFL, might have been enough in itself to put Arizona on top of this category. Criner led the Pac-10 last year with 82 receptions for 1,233 yards.

Throw in David Douglas (52 catches, 515 yards) and David Roberts (44 catches, 487 yards), and the Wildcats look even better. Then consider the addition of Texas transfer Dan Bucker. Yep, Arizona is an obvious No. 1 at this spot.

Washington, though, could give Arizona a run for its money with a corps that includes proven seniors Jermaine Kearse (second-team all-conference the past two seasons) and Devin Aguilar. The Huskies will be bolstered by true freshman Kasen Williams, who was the *Parade* Player of the Year last season.

USC's Robert Woods is as talented as any receiver in the conference.

Oregon State might deserve to rate higher if senior James Rodgers returns in good shape from a knee injury suffered midway through last season.

Colorado will boast one of the better young receivers in the conference in Paul Richardson, a one-time UCLA signee who caught 34 passes last year as a true freshman. Washington State's Marquess Wilson leads a promising, young crew.

OFFENSIVE LINE

1. STANFORD
2. OREGON STATE
3. OREGON
4. UTAH
5. USC
6. ARIZONA STATE
7. WASHINGTON
8. COLORADO
9. CAL
10. UCLA
11. ARIZONA
12. WASHINGTON STATE

Some might question Stanford being regarded as still having the best offensive line in the Pac-12.

But most teams in the conference have some questions up front, while the Cardinal returns two of the best linemen in the conference in right guard David DeCastro and left tackle Jonathan Martin. They give Stanford a great foundation as it looks to maintain its toughness without head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Oregon State returns four starters, including what might be the best set of tackles in the conference in Mike Remmers and Michael Philipp, one of the main reasons for optimism this year in Corvallis.

Oregon has to replace three starters, but has two good returners in tackle Mark Asper and guard Carson York. Candidates at other spots have significant experience.

Utah has one of the better tackle tandems in John Cullen and Tony Bergstrom; the Utes will rest much of their hope of a successful transition on their strength up front.

USC also has just two returning starters, but as always, the new guys come with plenty of plaudits, and left tackle Matt Kalil projects as one of the best in the conference.

Defensive Wealth is Spread Around the League

DEFENSIVE LINE

1. USC
2. ARIZONA STATE
3. WASHINGTON
4. UTAH
5. CAL
6. UCLA
7. OREGON STATE
8. STANFORD
9. OREGON
10. COLORADO
11. ARIZONA
12. WASHINGTON STATE

This is a rebuilding area throughout the league as all eight players who received first- or second-team all-conference honors last season are gone — seven seniors, plus USC's Jurrell Casey, who left early for the NFL.

Had Casey returned, USC would be a slam dunk for the best defensive line. As it is, the Trojans may still possess it; they return three starters from last year, led by end Nick Perry. Also returning is tackle Christian Tupou, a 2009 starter who missed last year due to a knee injury.

Arizona State could have the best collection of ends in the conference — 2010 Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of the Year Junior Onyeali, James Brooks and Jamaar Jarrett.

Washington hasn't been great up front for a while, but its late-season surge was due in part to strong play on the defensive line. Senior nose tackle Alameda Ta'amu might be best at his position in the conference.

Utah is bragging on defensive tackle Star Lotulelei. Cal lost some significant contributors up front, notably first-round end Cameron Jordan. But the Bears signed maybe the best group of defensive linemen in the nation and have some good young players ready to step forward.

LINEBACKERS

1. ARIZONA STATE
2. CAL
3. STANFORD
4. COLORADO
5. USC
6. OREGON
7. UTAH
8. UCLA
9. ARIZONA
10. OREGON STATE
11. WASHINGTON
12. WASHINGTON STATE

Arizona State junior middle linebacker Vontaze Burfict is one of the most dynamic, albeit controversial, players in the nation. The 2009 Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of the Year was relegated to the all-conference second team last year, due mostly to discipline issues.

Should he play under control this year — and we're betting he will — he will help make ASU's defense one of the most feared in the conference. ASU also has players with significant starting experience at its other linebacker spots, notably Brandon Magee.

Cal's linebacking corps is led by Mychal Kendricks. He and Burfict are the only returning linebackers from the 2010 all-conference teams.

Stanford's Shayne Skov served notice that he might deserve those honors this season after he had 12 tackles — including three sacks — against Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

NFL scouts already have their eye on Colorado outside linebacker Jon Major, who just needs to stay healthy to become one of the best in the country.

USC returns talented Devon Kennard in the middle and Chris Galippo outside, each entrusted this year with returning the Trojans' defense to its former dominant state.

SECONDARY

1. OREGON
2. ARIZONA
3. ARIZONA STATE
4. UCLA
5. STANFORD
6. USC
7. OREGON STATE
8. CAL
9. WASHINGTON
10. COLORADO
11. WASHINGTON STATE
12. UTAH

This one seems simple enough — Oregon led the Pac-10 in pass defense efficiency last season, picking off a conference-high 21 passes and allowing opponents to complete a conference-low 53.8 percent of their passes.

The Ducks return three starters, led by one of the best ball-hawks in the country in ever-confident junior cornerback Cliff Harris. His six interceptions and 23 passes defended last year were both conference highs.

Arizona lost some depth with the spring ACL injury to safety Adam Hall, but senior Trevin Wade leads a good group of cornerbacks, where depth allowed Robert Golden to return to safety.

ASU had exceedingly high hopes in this area before all-conference cornerback Omar Bolden suffered a knee injury during spring practice that could impact his season. But ASU returns four other players in the secondary with starting experience, including Deveron Carr, and should still be pretty good, if there are no more injuries.

UCLA underperformed in the secondary a year ago but should be better this year, thanks in part to senior strong safety Tony Dye.

Stanford returns both of its safeties, including strong safety Delano Howell, one of the best in the conference. USC also boasts a high-quality safety in T.J. McDonald.

SPECIAL TEAMS

1. OREGON
2. USC
3. OREGON STATE
4. CAL
5. UCLA
6. STANFORD
7. ARIZONA STATE
8. UTAH
9. WASHINGTON
10. COLORADO
11. ARIZONA
12. WASHINGTON STATE

An underrated reason for Oregon's success in the past few years has been its special teams dominance, and 2011 doesn't look to be any different.

The Ducks return dynamic returners in Cliff Harris (punts) and Josh Huff (kickoffs), as well as both kickers. And, maybe most importantly, the coaching staff seems to always figure out ways to steal points in this area — how many times has Oregon pulled off two-point conversions on unsuspecting foes?

USC, who will have one of the best returners in the conference in Robert Woods, had some of the best coverage units in the conference last season.

Oregon State ranked in the top two last season in both punt and kickoff returns, led by Jordan Poyer, a junior whose 27.8-yard kickoff return average was second-best in the conference a year ago.

Cal returns the top punter in the conference in Bryan Anger (although UCLA's Jeff Locke could argue the point) and a returner with potential in Keenan Allen.

Stanford was solid in this area a year ago and despite some graduation losses, could get a boost if returner Chris Owusu can stay healthy. He was among the best returners in 2009.

PAC-10 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE RACE

It might be appropriate to ask: What race? The final year of the Pac-10 as we know it — with the full round-robin schedule crowning the champion — was settled early and rather definitively with 45 minutes of inspired football from Oregon on Oct. 2.

The setting was Autzen Stadium and the opponent was Stanford, which raced to a 21-3 lead by late in the first quarter. The Ducks, even this early in the season, had developed a reputation for slow starts and fabulous finishes ... and this was no different.

Oregon put up 21 second-quarter points, although it still trailed, 31-24. Then came a 28-0 second-half blitz as the Ducks wore out the Cardinal and won, 52-31.

As for the league race, that was pretty much that.

No other Pac-10 team made a charge, and the Ducks had an effective two-game lead on Stanford. Sure, Cal gave Oregon a scare on Nov. 13, with the Ducks eking out a 15-13 victory, but that game was more important for the BCS machinations than for Oregon's quest for a second consecutive conference title.

Other than Stanford, nobody finished closer than four games behind the Ducks.

Good news for the Pac-10 was that the Cardinal kept winning, too, and secured a second spot for the league in the BCS by getting to the Orange Bowl.

THE CHAMPION

Oregon began the season with only one question: Could sophomore Darron Thomas successfully take over for quarterback Jeremiah Masoli, who had been dismissed from the team over the summer? Turns out, Thomas was more than fine — passing when defenses gave him the pass, running when defenses gave him the run.

Thomas had plenty of skill around him in the read-option offense, starting with sophomore LaMichael James, who led the nation with 144.3 rushing yards per game. Wide receiver Jeff Maehl, with 1,076 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns, was plenty clutch, too.

The defense, like the offense, was built for speed and big-play ability. That was best personified in cornerback Cliff Harris, with six interceptions and four punt-return touchdowns.

In the national championship game, the Ducks ran into a similarly-styled and supremely-conditioned Auburn team. The Tigers eventually controlled the line of scrimmage and put together the game-winning field-goal drive to pull out a 22-19 victory.

THE STARS

Offensive Player of the Year: Andrew Luck, QB, Stanford

Completely blossomed into an NFL-ready quarterback as a redshirt sophomore, leading Stanford to a 12-1 record as he ranked third nationally in passing efficiency (170.16 rating). With superb poise, he completed 263 of 372 passes for 3,338 yards, with 32 touchdowns and eight interceptions, and he could always lower his shoulder and flatten a defender.

Defensive Player of the Year: Stephen Paea, DT, Oregon State

Probably the strongest player in college football — he would go on to set an NFL combine record with 49 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press — Paea was a rock in the middle. He had 45 tackles, including 10 for loss and six sacks, also forcing four fumbles.

Coach of the Year: Chip Kelly, Oregon

Relentless in his "Win the Day" approach — the motto can be found on the walls of the locker room and around Autzen Stadium — Kelly guided the Ducks to the BCS Championship Game. Defenses are still trying to catch up to his innovative, crazy-fast approach to offense.

THE BOWLS

The Pac-10 scraped together just four teams for the postseason, with Oregon State, Cal and Arizona State missing eligibility by one game (the Devils were 6-6, but could count only one of their two victories over FCS opponents). The only "bad" postseason result was turnover-plagued Arizona's effort vs. high-scoring Oklahoma State. Meanwhile, Washington stunned Nebraska, and Stanford pounced on ACC champ Virginia Tech in the second half.

BCS Championship Game	**Auburn 22, Oregon 19**
Orange	**Stanford 40, Virginia Tech 12**
Holiday	**Washington 19, Nebraska 7**
Alamo	**Oklahoma State 36, Arizona 10**

ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

*as selected by the league media

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Andrew Luck	Stanford
RB	LaMichael James	Oregon
RB	Owen Marecic	Stanford
RB	Jacquizz Rodgers	Oregon State
WR	Juron Criner	Arizona
WR	Jeff Maehl	Oregon
TE	David Paulson	Oregon
OL	Chase Beeler	Stanford
OL	David DeCastro	Stanford
OL	Jordan Holmes	Oregon
OL	Jonathan Martin	Stanford
OL	Tyron Smith	USC
KR	Robert Woods	USC
PR	Cliff Harris	Oregon
PK	Nate Whitaker	Stanford

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	Darron Thomas	Oregon
RB	Johnathan Franklin	UCLA
RB	Chris Polk	Washington
RB	Shane Vereen	California
WR	Doug Baldwin	Stanford
WR	Jermaine Kearse	Washington
TE	Coby Fleener	Stanford
OL	Colin Baxter	Arizona
OL	Adam Grant	Arizona
OL	Alex Linnenkohl	Oregon State
OL	Mitchell Schwartz	California
OL	Bo Thran	Oregon
KR	Omar Bolden	Arizona State
PR	Ronald Johnson	USC
PK	Kai Forbath	UCLA

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Jurrell Casey	USC
DL	Cameron Jordan	California
DL	Stephen Paea	Oregon State
DL	Brooks Reed	Arizona
LB	Akeem Ayers	UCLA
LB	Mason Foster	Washington
LB	Casey Matthews	Oregon
DB	Omar Bolden	Arizona State
DB	Chris Conte	California
DB	Talmadge Jackson	Oregon
DB	Rahim Moore	UCLA
ST	Chike Amajoyi	Stanford
P	Bryan Anger	California

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Brandon Bair	Oregon
DL	Ricky Elmore	Arizona
DL	Sione Fua	Stanford
DL	Kenny Rowe	Oregon
LB	Vontaze Burfict	Arizona State
LB	Mychal Kendricks	California
LB	Mike Mohamed	California
DB	Cliff Harris	Oregon
DB	Delano Howell	Stanford
DB	T.J. McDonald	USC
DB	Nate Williams	Washington
ST	Bryson Littlejohn	Oregon
P	Jeff Locke	UCLA

THE STANDINGS

Pac-10	W-L	Pct.	PF	PA	W-L	Pct.	PF	PA
Oregon	9-0	1.000	403	208	12-1	.923	611	243
Stanford	8-1	.889	327	159	12-1	.923	524	226
Washington	5-4	.556	186	275	7-6	.538	284	381
USC	5-4	.556	289	256	8-5	.615	403	347
Oregon State	4-5	.444	213	227	5-7	.417	293	322
Arizona State	4-5	.444	273	251	6-6	.500	387	300
Arizona	4-5	.444	230	224	7-6	.538	367	295
California	3-6	.333	175	209	5-7	.417	310	271
UCLA	2-7	.222	155	308	4-8	.333	242	364
Washington State	1-8	.111	174	308	2-10	.167	235	430

2010 PAC-10 LEADERS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PASS EFFICIENCY	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	TD	EFF.
1. Andrew Luck, Stanford	13	263	372	8	70.7	3338	32	170.2
2. Darron Thomas, Oregon	13	222	361	9	61.5	2881	30	151.0
3. Matt Barkley, USC	12	236	377	12	62.6	2791	26	141.2
4. Nick Foles, Arizona	11	286	426	10	67.1	3191	20	140.9
5. Steven Threet, Arizona State	11	208	336	16	61.9	2534	18	133.4
6. Jeff Tuel, Washington State	12	219	366	12	59.8	2780	18	133.3
7. Ryan Katz, Oregon State	12	213	355	11	60.0	2401	18	127.3
8. Jake Locker, Washington	12	184	332	9	55.4	2265	17	124.2
9. Richar Brehaut, UCLA	9	119	212	7	56.1	1296	6	110.2
10. Brock Mansion, California	9	67	137	5	48.9	646	2	86.0

INTERCEPTIONS	G	NO.	YDS	TD	AVG/G	LONG
1. Cliff Harris, Oregon	13	6	92	1	76	0.46
2. Delano Howell, Stanford	12	5	0	0	0	0.42
3. John Boyett, Oregon	13	5	57	1	39	0.38
Nathan Fellner, Washington	13	5	0	0	0	0.38
5. James Dockery, Oregon State	12	4	0	0	0	0.33
6. Richard Sherman, Stanford	13	4	39	0	24	0.31
Nickell Robey, USC	13	4	33	1	25	0.31
8. Omar Bolden, Arizona State	12	3	85	1	66	0.25
T.J. McDonald, USC	12	3	20	0	20	0.25
Aaron Hester, UCLA	12	3	0	0	0	0.25

RUSHING	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. LaMichael James, Oregon	12	294	1731	5.9	21	144.2
2. Chris Polk, Washington	13	260	1415	5.4	9	108.8
3. Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State	12	256	1184	4.6	14	98.7
4. Shane Vereen, California	12	231	1167	5.1	13	97.2
5. Johnathan Franklin, UCLA	12	214	1127	5.3	8	93.9
6. Stepfan Taylor, Stanford	13	223	1137	5.1	15	87.5
7. Allen Bradford, USC	11	110	794	7.2	5	72.2
8. Marc Tyler, USC	13	171	913	5.3	9	70.2
9. Cameron Marshall, Arizona State	12	150	787	5.2	9	65.6
10. Keola Antolin, Arizona	13	143	668	4.7	7	51.4

SCORING	G	TD	XPT	FG	2XP	PTS	PTS/G
1. LaMichael James, Oregon	12	24	0	0	0	144	12.0
2. Nate Whitaker, Stanford	13	0	17	61	0	112	8.6
3. Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State	12	17	0	0	0	102	8.5
4. Rob Beard, Oregon	12	0	10	63	4	97	8.1
5. Shane Vereen, California	12	16	0	0	0	96	8.0
6. Thomas Weber, Arizona State	12	0	17	42	0	93	7.8
7. Stepfan Taylor, Stanford	13	16	0	0	0	96	7.4
8. Alex Zendejas, Arizona	13	0	14	41	0	83	6.4
9. Gior Tavecchio, California	12	0	11	37	0	70	5.8
10. Jeff Maehl, Oregon	13	12	0	0	2	74	5.7

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	RUSH	PASS	PLAYS	TOT	YDS/G
1. Andrew Luck, Stanford	13	453	3338	427	3791	291.6
2. Nick Foles, Arizona	11	-113	3191	461	3078	279.8
3. Darron Thomas, Oregon	13	486	2881	454	3367	259.0
4. Jeff Tuel, Washington State	12	194	2780	501	2974	247.8
5. Steven Threet, Arizona State	11	19	2534	395	2553	232.1
6. Matt Barkley, USC	12	-17	2791	411	2774	231.2
7. Jake Locker, Washington	12	385	2265	446	2650	220.8
8. Ryan Katz, Oregon State	12	14	2401	433	2415	201.2
9. Richar Brehaut, UCLA	9	61	1296	269	1357	150.8
10. LaMichael James, Oregon	12	1731	0	294	1731	144.3

PUNTING	G	NO.	YDS	LG	AVG
1. Jeff Locke, UCLA	12	64	2934	63	45.8
2. Bryan Anger, California	12	62	2825	71	45.6
3. Reid Forrest, Washington State	12	66	2998	84	45.4
4. Trevor Hankins, Arizona State	11	54	2406	63	44.6
5. Kiel Rasp, Washington	12	69	3020	82	43.8
6. Jackson Rice, Oregon	10	40	1691	56	42.3
7. Daniel Zychlinski, Stanford	13	27	1129	64	41.8
8. Johnny Hekker, Oregon State	12	61	2545	74	41.7
9. Jacob Harfman, USC	13	44	1810	52	41.1
10. Keenyn Crier, Arizona	13	48	1936	62	40.3

RECEIVING YDS/GAME	G	REC	YDS	TD	YDS/G
1. Juron Criner, Arizona	13	82	1233	11	94.8
2. Marq Wilson, Washington State	12	55	1006	6	83.8
3. Jeff Maehl, Oregon	13	77	1076	12	82.8
4. Jermaine Kearse, Washington	13	63	1005	12	77.3
5. Doug Baldwin, Stanford	13	58	857	9	65.9
6. Marvin Jones, California	12	50	765	4	63.8
7. Robert Woods, USC	13	64	786	6	60.5
8. Kerry Taylor, Arizona State	12	54	699	3	58.2
9. Markus Wheaton, Oregon State	12	55	675	4	56.2
10. Jared Karstetter, Washington State	12	62	658	7	54.8

TEAM STATISTICS

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	PLAYS	YDS.	AVG/P	TD	YDS/G
1. Oregon	13	1024	6899	6.7	73	530.7
2. Stanford	13	914	6142	6.7	66	472.5
3. Arizona	13	959	5712	6.0	45	439.4
4. USC	13	930	5609	6.0	48	431.5
5. Arizona State	12	877	5108	5.8	42	425.7
6. Washington	13	857	4713	5.5	34	362.5
7. California	12	761	4007	5.3	35	333.9
8. Washington State	12	801	3962	4.9	30	330.2
9. Oregon State	12	759	3918	5.2	37	326.5
10. UCLA	12	802	3800	4.7	29	316.7

TOTAL DEFENSE	G	PLYS	YDS.	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. California	12	797	3829	4.8	30	319.1
2. Stanford	13	830	4197	5.1	28	322.8
3. Arizona	13	894	4431	5.0	34	340.8
4. Oregon	13	963	4498	4.7	26	346.0
5. Arizona State	12	871	4386	5.0	32	365.5
6. Washington	13	889	5003	5.6	47	384.8
7. USC	13	880	5200	5.9	42	400.0
8. Oregon State	12	862	4895	5.7	42	407.9
9. UCLA	12	833	5041	6.1	42	420.1
10. Washington State	12	832	5604	6.7	55	467.0

KICKOFF RETURNS	G	RET	YDS.	TD	AVG.
1. Arizona State	12	52	1432	3	27.5
2. Oregon State	12	52	1372	0	26.4
3. USC	13	51	1248	1	24.5
4. Arizona	13	48	1103	1	23.0
5. Stanford	13	43	936	0	21.8
6. Oregon	13	46	984	0	21.4
7. Washington State	12	46	983	0	21.4
8. California	12	47	1002	0	21.3
9. UCLA	12	53	1121	0	21.2
10. Washington	13	55	1148	0	20.9

SCORING OFFENSE	G	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Oregon	13	81	13	72	7	0	0	611	47.0
2. Stanford	13	68	17	61	2	0	0	524	40.3
3. Arizona State	12	48	17	42	2	0	1	387	32.2
4. USC	13	53	10	43	5	1	0	403	31.0
5. Arizona	13	47	14	41	0	0	1	367	28.2
6. California	12	40	11	37	0	0	0	310	25.8
7. Oregon State	12	39	8	35	0	0	0	293	24.4
8. Washington	13	35	13	33	0	0	1	284	21.8
9. UCLA	12	29	13	27	1	0	0	242	20.2
10. Washington State	12	31	7	28	0	0	0	235	19.6

SCORING DEFENSE	G	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Stanford	13	29	7	27	1	0	1	226	17.4
2. Oregon	13	27	17	24	1	0	2	243	18.7
3. California	12	34	11	32	1	0	0	271	22.6
4. Arizona	13	36	15	30	1	0	1	295	22.7
5. Arizona State	12	36	16	32	1	1	0	300	25.0
6. USC	13	45	13	36	1	0	0	347	26.7
7. Oregon State	12	42	9	39	1	0	1	322	26.8
8. Washington	13	49	12	45	2	0	1	381	29.3
9. UCLA	12	46	14	42	2	0	0	364	30.3
10. Washington State	12	58	8	52	3	0	0	430	35.8

PUNT RETURNS	G	RET	YDS.	TD	AVG.
1. Oregon	13	40	679	5	17.0
2. Oregon State	12	18	266	1	14.8
3. USC	13	25	364	1	14.6
4. California	12	25	304	1	12.2
5. Stanford	13	26	261	0	10.0
6. Arizona State	12	34	309	1	9.1
7. UCLA	12	17	121	0	7.1
8. Washington State	12	19	113	0	5.9
9. Arizona	13	22	129	0	5.9
10. Washington	13	26	128	0	4.9

RUSHING OFFENSE	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. Oregon	13	629	3721	5.9	42	286.2
2. Stanford	13	535	2779	5.2	34	213.8
3. USC	13	478	2467	5.2	20	189.8
4. UCLA	12	484	2107	4.4	20	175.6
5. Washington	13	481	2238	4.7	15	172.2
6. California	12	429	1906	4.4	19	158.8
7. Arizona State	12	413	1671	4.0	19	139.2
8. Arizona	13	435	1712	3.9	20	131.7
9. Oregon State	12	384	1435	3.7	18	119.6
10. Washington State	12	417	1092	2.6	11	91.0

RUSHING DEFENSE	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. Arizona State	12	441	1443	3.3	14	120.2
2. Stanford	13	406	1571	3.9	12	120.8
3. Oregon	13	474	1665	3.5	11	128.1
4. Arizona	13	481	1712	3.6	16	131.7
5. California	12	435	1585	3.6	15	132.1
6. USC	13	416	1826	4.4	12	140.5
7. Oregon State	12	506	2154	4.3	19	179.5
8. Washington	13	530	2476	4.7	32	190.5
9. UCLA	12	473	2466	5.2	23	205.5
10. Washington State	12	473	2643	5.6	30	220.2

PUNTING	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	RET	YDS.	AVG.	NET/P
1. UCLA	12	64	2934	45.8	213	3.3	4	41.3
2. Washington State	12	69	3049	44.2	236	3.4	5	39.3
3. California	12	63	2825	44.8	259	4.1	7	38.5
4. Oregon	13	43	1799	41.8	110	2.6	3	37.9
5. USC	13	45	1836	40.8	84	1.9	4	37.2
6. Stanford	13	32	1347	42.1	130	4.1	2	36.8
7. Washington	13	76	3321	43.7	364	4.8	9	36.5
8. Oregon State	12	63	2545	40.4	202	3.2	5	35.6
9. Arizona	13	54	2118	39.2	137	2.5	7	34.1
10. Arizona State	12	63	2623	41.6	369	5.9	6	33.9

PASS OFFENSE	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. Arizona	13	357	524	12	68.1	4000	7.6	25	307.7
2. Arizona State	12	279	464	17	60.1	3437	7.4	23	286.4
3. Stanford	13	266	379	8	70.2	3363	8.9	32	258.7
4. Oregon	13	248	395	9	62.8	3178	8.0	31	244.5
5. USC	13	278	452	13	61.5	3142	7.0	28	241.7
6. Washington State	12	227	384	12	59.1	2870	7.5	19	239.2
7. Oregon State	12	221	375	12	58.9	2483	6.6	19	206.9
8. Washington	13	205	376	9	54.5	2475	6.6	19	190.4
9. California	12	185	332	11	55.7	2101	6.3	16	175.1
10. UCLA	12	162	318	14	50.9	1693	5.3	9	141.1

PASS DEFENSE	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. California	12	203	362	9	56.1	2244	6.2	15	187.0
2. Washington	13	216	359	12	60.2	2527	7.0	15	194.4
3. Stanford	13	241	424	18	56.8	2626	6.2	16	202.0
4. Arizona	13	233	413	9	56.4	2719	6.6	18	209.2
5. UCLA	12	225	360	7	62.5	2575	7.2	19	214.6
6. Oregon	13	263	489	21	53.8	2833	5.8	15	217.9
7. Oregon State	12	222	356	10	62.4	2741	7.7	23	228.4
8. Arizona State	12	271	430	12	63.0	2943	6.8	18	245.2
9. Washington State	12	238	359	11	66.3	2961	8.2	25	246.8
10. USC	13	278	464	15	59.9	3374	7.3	30	259.5

TURNOVER MARGIN	G	+FUM	+INT	TOT	-FUM	-INT	-TOT	MAR
1. Stanford	13	12	18	30	9	8	17	+13
Oregon	13	16	21	37	15	9	24	+13
3. Oregon State	12	10	10	20	4	12	16	+4
4. USC	13	11	15	26	9	13	22	+4
5. California	12	10	9	19	6	11	17	+2
6. Washington	13	7	12	19	8	9	17	+2
7. Washington State	12	11	11	22	11	12	23	-1
8. Arizona	13	9	9	18	10	12	22	-4
9. Arizona State	12	5	12	17	6	17	23	-6
10. UCLA	12	11	7	18	15	14	29	-11

Cornerback Scott Grady celebrates after the game at Reser Stadium on Dec. 4, 2010 in Corvallis, Oregon.

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

WHO HOLDS THE BALANCE OF POWER?

QUESTIONS ABOUND AS CONFERENCE ENTERS NEW ERA OF NORTH VS. SOUTH

By Doug Haller

Kaluka Maiava, Mark Sanchez and Damian Williams celebrate with the trophy after defeating the Penn State Nittany Lions at the 95th Rose Bowl Game.

Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

Between 1990 and 2000, seven different Pac-10 teams won the conference title and played in the Rose Bowl. Between 2001 and 2010, two teams won the conference title — Oregon and USC, with both teams occasionally forgoing the Rose Bowl to play for the national title.

Now the Pac-10 is the Pac-12, divided into North and South divisions with the conference champion to be decided in a championship game.

Will this coming decade be more like the 1990s with a semblance of league parity? Or more like the 2000s with two schools, one in the north and one in the south, dominating the league?

What effect will Utah, which has won 33 games in the past three years, have on the South division? Can Stanford sustain its resurgence, now that coach Jim Harbaugh has left for the NFL, and be a threat to Oregon's dominance in the North?

Which is the better division — the North or the South?

Questions abound, answers are few. Oregon should repeat as conference champion, but if past trends are any indication, perhaps it's time for the South to rise again.

THE NORTH

From 2000-2002, the Northwest schools ruled the conference. Washington, Oregon and Oregon State all shared the 2000 title. The coaches of two of those teams are still in the conference, though not at the same schools.

Rick Neuheisel coaches UCLA today, but then he was at Washington. Arizona State's Dennis Erickson was at Oregon State, and current ESPN analyst Mike Bellotti was at Oregon.

The Huskies went to the Rose Bowl after the 2000 season. In 2001, Oregon was the Pac-10 champion, finishing the season 11-1. In 2002, then-coach Mike Price led Washington State to a share of the conference crown, matching USC's 7-1 conference record ... and that's when everything changed.

Pete Carroll's hiring at USC shifted the power south to Los Angeles. Starting with that shared title in 2002, the Trojans put together an unprecedented run of seven straight Pac-10 championships. At one point, they won a Pac-10 record 27 consecutive conference games, although many of those wins have since been vacated because of NCAA violations.

The end was messy. Carroll left for the NFL, and the Trojans were left with a reduction in scholarships, a two-year postseason ban and an unproven coach in Lane Kiffin. That helped the Pac-10's power to shift north, where Oregon offensive coordinator Chip Kelly replaced Bellotti and produced back-to-back Pac-10 titles.

In the first Pac-12 season, Oregon will compete in the North Division with California, Oregon State, Stanford, Washington and Washington State.

The new schools, Colorado, from the Big 12 and Utah, from the Mountain West, will play in the South Division with Arizona, Arizona State, USC and UCLA.

There are more questions about the South's teams than the North's.

In two seasons under Kelly, a spread-offense specialist, the Ducks have gone 22-4, winning 17 of 18 conference contests. Last year, Oregon averaged 47 points a game.

"Oregon was a tremendous example of stability that was developed over a period of time," Erickson said, "but, obviously, it's to a new level with Chip being there."

Running back LaMichael James, a Heisman Trophy candidate, and quarterback Darron Thomas, return, and when you add in two straight recruiting classes ranked among the top 15 nationally, Oregon should win its third consecutive conference championship.

Nipping at Oregon's heels is Stanford, which lost only to the Ducks last season and also played in a BCS bowl, defeating Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl. But Harbaugh's departure to coach the San Francisco 49ers left questions about the Cardinal.

To many, Harbaugh just didn't coach Stanford, he *was* Stanford. That puts tremendous pressure on his replacement, former offensive coordinator David Shaw.

Of the 16 teams that have won or shared Pac-10 titles since 2000, only two — Arizona State's Erickson in 2007 and Oregon's Kelly in 2009 — did so with first-year coaches.

Another nagging concern is that the Cardinal hasn't strung together three consecutive winning conference seasons since 1975-1977. Still, Stanford's 2011 recruiting class was ranked by several outlets among the nation's 25 best, and Shaw and his staff have already made a splash for 2012, securing three players Rivals.com ranks in the Top 75. At this point, it's hard to envision a sharp drop from the Cardinal.

"We've got a team that's ... eager to pick up where we left off," Shaw told reporters.

Of the North's remaining teams, Cal, Oregon State and Washington State are rebuilding, and resurgent Washington enters the post-Jake Locker era.

THE SOUTH

While the power may still be in the North, the South won't stay down forever. USC still is USC. Despite Carroll's exit and the NCAA sanctions, the Trojans put together 2010's top recruiting class, according to Rivals.com. Their 2011 class was ranked fourth.

The Trojans don't get to play in the postseason again this year, but they will affect which of the other South Division teams make it to the Pac-12 title game.

Arizona State should have the conference's fiercest defense, but its hopes for the South Division title rest on gun-slinging quarterback Brock Osweiler, who started only two games last season, playing lights out in one and so-so in the other.

Can Utah win 10 or more games for the fourth consecutive year and win the inaugural South Division title in the process? Playing Oregon State, Arizona and UCLA in consecutive weeks is hardly the same as playing Wyoming, Colorado State and Air Force. Consider Utah the Pac-12's wildcard.

Speaking of Arizona, its offense should burn up the field, but will its brutal early season schedule leave the team with enough left in the tank to make it to the top of the South standings? Arizona coach Mike Stoops thinks the Wildcats could end up surprising a lot of teams.

"We have some question marks (entering this season), but we have enough skill to overcome it," he said.

No one really knows when UCLA will get it together; the Bruins have been loaded with talent for years but unable to win. This is Neuheisel's hot-seat season; can he get off it by getting the Bruins to the championship game?

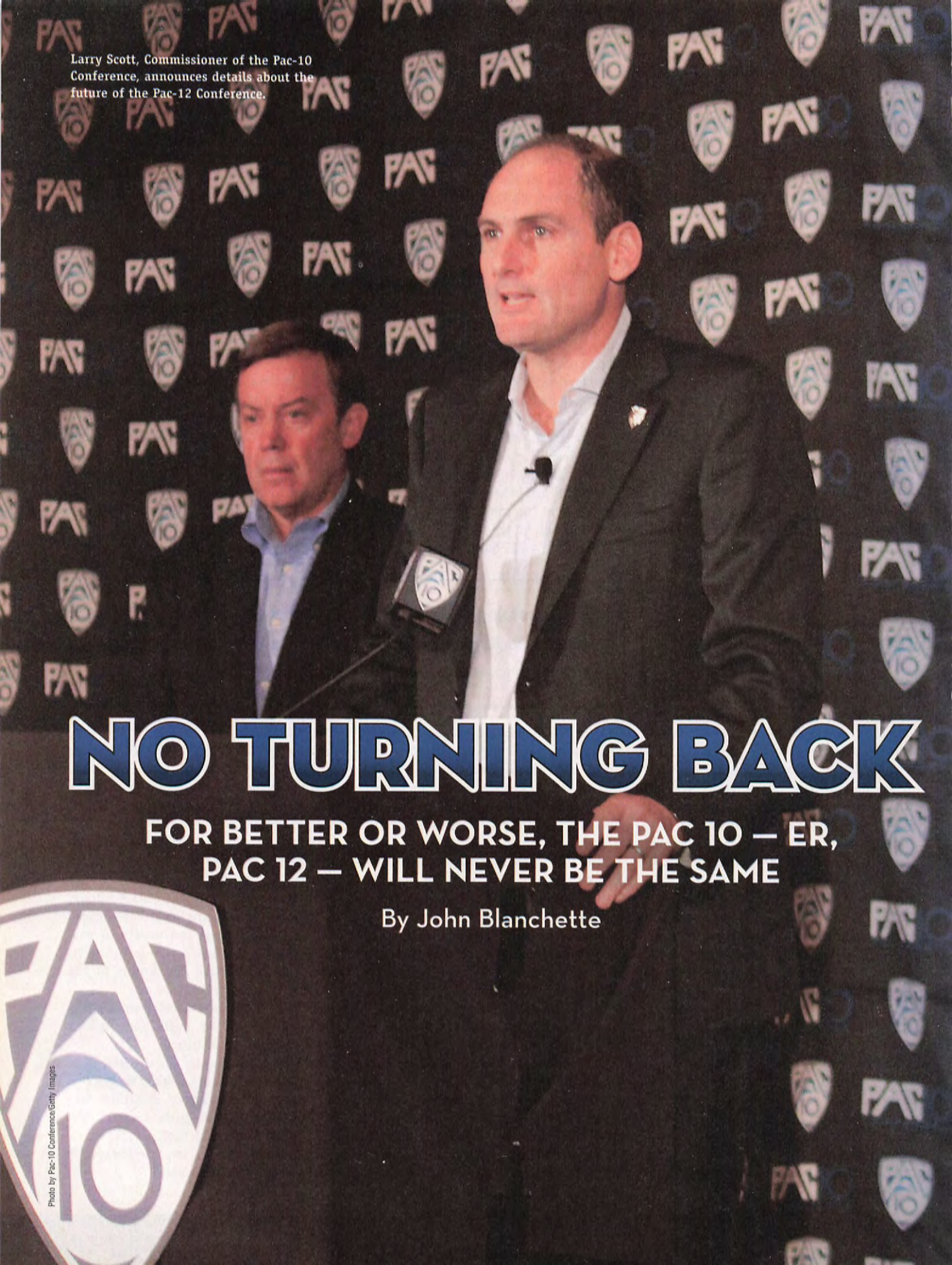
And finally, there's Colorado, which struggled in the Big 12 but might find the West Coast vibe more to its liking.

In 2012, USC can play for the Rose Bowl again. Will it be a return to glory for the men of Troy, or will scholarship limitations take their toll? Will UCLA catch a spark? Will Washington continue to rise?

Or will the Pac-12, for the foreseeable future, still quack like a Duck?

Questions, questions.

Will this coming decade be more like the 1990s with a semblance of league parity? Or more like the 2000s with two schools, one in the north and one in the south, dominating the league?



Larry Scott, Commissioner of the Pac-10 Conference, announces details about the future of the Pac-12 Conference.

NO TURNING BACK

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE PAC 10 — ER, PAC 12 — WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

By John Blanchette

Photo by Pac-10 Conference/Getty Images

Armani sells overalls. Wolfgang Puck peddles canned soup. Gucci makes flip-flops. Waterford crafts Cubs-logo beer crystal.

In the world of brand prestige and rank, these are accommodations made for the sake of business — OK, for the sake of a buck — and while nothing truly stretches credulity anymore in that regard, some things resist easy analogy.

So it was as the Pacific-10 Conference remade itself during the past year: dashing about to court additional lodge brothers — Oklahoma State? Really? — or sticking up television networks, or partnering with a Hollywood talent agency. The unwashed masses were even invited to vote on a logo for the new football championship game.

This was not the Pac-10 we grew up with — the old-money club that reluctantly backed into the Bowl Championship Series, that touted its titles in water polo as proudly as John Wooden's run, that treasured its five natural geographic rivalries, that adored "the Granddaddy of them all," that smugly put up academic barriers to expansion.

This was not the Pac-10 we grew up with — the one in which the commissioner wasn't a power broker like Jim Delany or Roy Kramer ... but instead might as well have been judging Rose Bowl floats.

This was fundamental, radical change.

Now it's done, at least for the time being.

The Pac-10 becomes the Pacific-12 for the 2011 football season, annexing Colorado and Utah. Divisions have been drawn and a football championship game will be played, just as in the football-mad SEC, where they would play semifinals and quarters if they could.

Most significantly of all, commissioner Larry Scott coaxed the Hatfields and McCoys of cable sports — ESPN and Fox — into a rights-share that, along with the creation of a stand-alone Pac-12 Network, stands to earn the conference upwards of $3 billion over 12 years. It's the richest deal in college athletics and puts every football and basketball game on television.

Yet in the wake of earlier TV bonanzas for the Big Ten, SEC and ACC, it was a given that the Pac-12 would move into a higher income bracket. So is this dance about substance or symbolism?

Both, actually.

When Scott came aboard in 2009, he predictably gushed about the Pac-10's broad-based athletic success — the "Conference of Champions" shtick — and academic profile. And then he cut to the chase.

"The Pac-10 gets written off when people talk about the strongest football programs in the country," he said. "The idea that it's USC plus nine is unfair."

He's right.

From the BCS launch in 1998, which conference has been best head-to-head against the other five power leagues? The Pac-10.

Since the dawn of this century, guess who's among the three conferences with winning bowl records? The Pac-10.

That was the reality before expansion and the sweet TV deal.

And yet the league remains the soft West Coast afterthought to the fan in Tuscaloosa, and the talking head in Bristol, and the poll voter perched at his laptop in Texas — no better than No. 4 among the major conferences in their minds, mostly because of geography.

"This is critical in football and basketball," Scott said, "because so much is determined subjectively. Perception matters at the end of the day — in access, seeding, revenue and exposure."

So has Scott changed the perception?

Maybe not as much as he thinks.

"I don't know that adding Colorado and Utah does all that much for you," said a former Pac-10 athletic director.

"It gets you a championship game and that helped with TV, and their markets are nice, but the Pac-10 was already in bigger markets. They're good schools, don't get me wrong, and Utah's had good football recently — but they're not game-changers."

Scott tried to bag some game-changers — taking a swing at Texas, Texas A&M and the Oklahoma schools in a move that would have changed the face of college athletics. That he wound up with Utah and Colorado instead — while the Big Ten bagged Nebraska — seemed like fouling one off, at best. But there's also something to be said for, in keeping with the baseball parlance, a good at-bat.

"What Larry tried showed that the conference had a new, aggressive approach," insisted Washington State athletic director Bill Moos, "and I think that was reflected later in the television deal."

So now we're talking about the symbolic — and in that light, this isn't just a plus-two, but a whole new league. And it starts at the top.

To say Scott's vision is a complete 180 from the longtime stewardship of the now-retired Tom Hansen is the heavyweight championship of duh. Just two years ago, for instance, Hansen was asked to peek into the Pac-10's future and was quoted thusly:

"I don't see much change in the next 10 to 20 years," he said as many Pac-10 fans groaned. "I wouldn't expect expansion, a new television deal with ESPN or a dramatic shift in our bowl agreements."

Ho-kay.

Scott has re-arranged the furniture dramatically, starting with luring ESPN into the mix — a credibility home run for a league that has spent too much of its air life on a regional carrier. It's a reach that will be felt in recruiting most of all, but also in gravitas.

The championship game gives the league another national stage. Can it do any harm for prospective recruits — and sponsors — to see more of the next wild set of Oregon uniforms or Chip Kelly's Xbox offense?

In the meantime, Washington and Washington State know the Apple Cup can be seen somewhere every year, and not just when both are vying for the Rose Bowl.

In house, Scott politicked the Los Angeles schools into agreeing to a communal split of media revenue, rectifying a long-standing inequity with a change that can only strengthen the league from the bottom up. If there is another shift of college athletics' tectonic plates, the Pac-12 is better positioned than it was.

If Scott has more wizardry in his wand, it's still needed.

The SEC crowd looks west and still sees half-empty stands and smallish stadiums — the league has only two of the top 25 draws in college football. Getting the audience jazzed nationally may not happen until it's jazzed locally.

And the bowl partnerships are still problematic. Beyond the BCS arrangements, 11 teams from the SEC, Big Ten and Big 12 play in more lucrative games than the highest non-BCS Pac-12 representative.

The No. 6 SEC team shouldn't get a bigger payday than your runner-up. Either Scott must make some inroads east, or find a way to rally more support for the bowls out west.

But, hey, at least USC will be bowl eligible again when the new TV contract goes into effect.

Even Gucci can't sell flip-flops if the loafers aren't top of the line.

ARIZONA WILDCATS

For more coverage of the Wildcats, visit arizona.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Seth Littrell | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Tim Kish | **STADIUM:** Arizona Stadium: 57,400

AT A GLANCE

2010:
7-6, 4-5 Pac-10 (T-5th)

COACH:
Mike Stoops — At Arizona and overall: 40-45, 7 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
12; 4 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Nick Foles, WR Juron Criner, WR Dan Buckner, WR David Douglas, DT Justin Washington, LB Paul Vassallo, LB Derek Earls, CB Trevin Wade

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Arizona boasts an NFL prospect at quarterback — the last UA quarterback to throw a pass in the NFL did so in 1973 — and perhaps its deepest group of receivers ever. Arizona is deep at defensive tackle and should be set at cornerback, especially if Wade bounces back. DE C.J. Parish was a pleasant surprise in the spring.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The offensive line has a total of one career start, that from C Kyle Quinn in the Alamo Bowl. The Wildcats are a disaster waiting to happen at linebacker, with only two proven players — Vassallo and Earls. UA plays three of *Lindy's* preseason Top 10 teams in succession early in the year — Oklahoma State, Stanford and Oregon.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Nic Grigsby, C Colin Baxter, OT Adam Grant, DE Brooks Reed, DE Ricky Elmore, DE D'Aundre Reed

OVERVIEW:
Arizona reached the AP Top 10 last year, but lost its final five games when the schedule turned tougher. This time, the schedule is front-loaded as the Wildcats play five teams in the first half of the season that beat them in 2010. Mike Stoops has elevated the program — the Cats are going for a school-record fourth consecutive bowl game — but a rough start could make his job security the program's No. 1 topic.

Ready for the Next Level? Stoops: 'We're Not Far Off'

Arizona coach Mike Stoops has taken the Wildcats from Point A to Point B. He inherited a mess after the 2003 season, rebuilt the program step-by-step, and has produced three consecutive bowl teams, never failing in any of his seven seasons to topple a Top 25 squad.

He has one major question left to answer. Can he take Arizona from Point B to Pasadena?

Not too long ago, the Rose Bowl question might have produced a chorus of "Yes" replies — and more than a few hallelujahs. Arizona went deep into the 2009 season contending for the league title (until a painful double-overtime loss to Oregon) and reached the national Top 10 midway through last season.

But the Wildcats lost their final five games when the schedule toughened.

So, it's back to that question: Is Stoops the guy to take the program up one more notch?

Well, maybe not this season.

Arizona, which led the league in passing last season, should have perhaps the best aerial attack in school history, but the starting offensive line is all new. Spring injuries already have sounded the alarm for a defense that is especially thin at end and linebacker.

On the other hand, USC isn't eligible to win the new Pac-12 South, and the others in the division have significant questions of their own. So why not Arizona? Why not now?

"We're not far off from being there," Stoops said. "That's what we understand."

He also understands that his players have to walk a fine line between having a short memory about the five-game losing streak and using it as fuel through the hot summer Tucson training months.

"We kind of lost our way there at the end and let a couple of games get away," Stoops said, "but I know what we're capable of doing."

OFFENSE

Arizona is going to take what it did best last season — be a fast-paced, four-wide spread team — and try to hang its hat on that this year.

The Wildcats have the quarterback and the wealth of receivers to make it work. Nick Foles completed 286 of 426 passes for 3,191 yards last season, at his best in late-game situations, leading late touchdown drives to beat Iowa and Cal. His last-minute scoring drive could very well have beaten Arizona State, too, if not for a blocked extra point.

Foles, who entered the summer rated as the No. 1 senior quarterback prospect according to NFLDraftScout.com, is clearly the leader of the team.

"I think my biggest goal is to just rally the guys around me," he said. "As a leader, you have to make everybody else better."

Juron Criner makes Foles look better, especially on deep throws, where the senior uses his 6-4 height, excellent leaping ability and body control to box out defenders. Criner is coming off an All-American-caliber season with 82 catches for 1,233 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Receiver is the team's best and deepest position, with Texas transfer Dan Buckner giving Arizona a 6-4 bookend to Criner on the outside.

"If they double me, who's going to hold him?" Criner said. "If they double him, how are they going to double me?"

Plenty of other Wildcat receivers can take advantage of single coverage. Senior David Douglas isn't flashy; he just makes catches. Sophomore Richard Morrison, who arrived as a quarterback, is developing quickly as a shifty inside receiver. Senior David Roberts has made plenty of big catches. Tight end Terrence Miller, a 6-4 threat over the middle, emerged late last season, with 25 of his 29 catches coming in the final five games.

"We feel we have a great group of skill

Nick Foles
Photo by Robert Beck /SI/Getty Images

WILDCATS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
2	Keola Antolin	RB	5-8	195	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV
	Jacob Arzouman	OL	6-4	270	Fr.	Tucson
54	Addison Bachman	C/G	6-4	290	Jr.	Glendora, CA
	Jared Baker	RB	5-9	180	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
59	Jake Baratz	C/OG	6-5	295	So.	Naperville, IL
86	Jack Baucus	TE	6-6	265	So.	Mundelein, IL
68	Mickey Baucus	OL	6-8	303	Fr.	Mundelein, IL
7	Bryson Beirne	QB	6-3	235	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
69	Eric Bender-Ramsay	OL	6-6	325	Fr.	Carson, CA
72	Trace Biskin	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Westlake Village, CA
18	John Bonano	K	6-0	195	Sr.	Salinas, CA
	Tra'Mayne Bondurant	DB	5-11	185	Fr.	Fairfield, CA
46	Blake Brady	DB	6-0	188	So.	Orange, CA
32	Lyle Brown	DB	5-10	180	Sr.	Castle Rock, CO
61	Rylan Browner	DL	6-3	282	Jr.	Nashville, TN
15	Dan Buckner	WR	6-4	220	Jr.	Allen, TX
23	Kylan Butler	RB	5-8	180	So.	Antioch, CA
	Ka'Deem Carey	RB	5-10	190	Fr.	Tucson
63	Brian Chacon	OL	6-4	280	Jr.	Long Beach, CA
	Michael Cooper	TE	6-4	230	Fr.	The Woodlands, TX
82	Juron Criner	WR	6-4	215	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV
21	Gino Crump	WR	6-2	210	Sr.	Washington, DC
	Lamar De Rego	DL	6-3	265	Jr.	Waimea, HI
85	David Douglas	WR	6-1	205	Sr.	McKinney, TX
13	Kyle Dugandzic	P	6-0	195	Jr.	Agoura, CA
40	Derek Earls	LB	6-3	247	Sr.	Waconia, MN
73	Fabbians Ebbele	OL	6-8	305	Fr.	Chicago, IL
	Faitele Faafoi	OL	6-5	300	Fr.	Tustin, CA
98	Aiulua Fanene	L	6-4	295	Fr.	Nu'uuli, American Samoa
33	Jake Fischer	LB	5-11	225	Jr.	Oro Valley
4	Marquis Flowers	S	6-3	220	So.	Phoenix
8	Nick Foles	QB	6-5	240	Sr.	Austin, TX
66	Spencer Fosnot	LS	6-1	190	Jr.	Phoenix
29	Trevor Foster	DB	6-0	205	Sr.	Ontario, CA
99	Saneilia Fuimaono	DT	6-2	306	Fr.	Kaneohe, HI
9	Daxx Garman	QB	6-2	175	Fr.	Choctaw, OK
	Reggie Gilbert	DE	6-3	230	Fr.	Laveen
1	Robert Golden	CB	5-11	200	Sr.	Fresno, CA
50	Chase Gorham	LS	6-2	225	So.	Scottsdale
43	Adam Gottschalk	S	6-2	205	Sr.	Tarzana, CA
26	Jourdon Grandon	CB	6-0	180	Fr.	Avondale
12	Adam Hall	S	6-4	220	Jr.	Tucson
	Rob Hankins	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Dallas, TX
61	David Highberger	LS	6-1	185	Jr.	Northbrook, IL
29	Austin Hill	WR	6-3	205	Fr.	Corona, CA
38	David Hill	FB	5-9	230	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV
	Hank Hobson	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Bakersfield, CA
3	Daniel Jenkins	RB	5-9	190	So.	Moreno Valley, CA
39	William Jenkins	DB	6-0	200	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA
	Cortez Johnson	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
27	Terris Jones	RB	5-9	180	So.	Long Beach, CA
77	Jack Julsing	OT	6-8	310	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA
60	Carter Lees	OG	6-5	320	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
36	Sean Lieb	WR	6-1	186	Sr.	Phoenix
	Lene Maiava	OL	6-5	260	Fr.	Tafuna, American Samoa
6	Jonathan McKnight	CB	5-11	175	So.	River Ridge, LA
71	Chris Merrill	DE	6-2	275	Jr.	Scottsdale
94	Lolomana Mikaele	DT	6-2	305	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
18	Terrence Miller	TE	6-4	225	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA
96	Willie Mobley	DT	6-2	280	Jr.	Eden Prairie, MN
11	Jon Mora	K	6-1	185	So.	San Jose, Costa Rica
14	Richard Morrison	WR	6-0	180	So.	Royce City, TX
52	Bilal Muhammed	LB	5-10	235	Sr.	Signal Hill, CA
	Dame Ndiaye	DE	6-4	220	Fr.	San Diego, CA
34	Greg Nwoko	RB	6-2	235	Jr.	Pflugerville, TX
30	Ross Oltorik	HB	6-2	225	Jr.	Cincinnati, OH
	Patrick Onwuasor	WR	6-1	190	Fr.	Inglewood, CA
	Jesse Ortiz	K	6-0	210	So.	Phoenix
28	C.J. Parish	DE	6-2	245	Sr.	College Station, TX
35	Kyrel Parker	DB	6-0	185	So.	Apache Junction
9	Joseph Perkins	S	6-2	198	Sr.	Gardena, CA
	Domonique Petties	LB	6-1	210	Fr.	Duncan, OK
90	Dan Pettinato	DE	6-4	260	Fr.	Grass Valley, CA
62	Chris Putton	OG	6-4	298	So.	Glendale
76	Kyle Quinn	C	6-2	300	Jr.	Brentwood, CA
17	Derrick Rainey	CB	6-1	190	So.	Houston, TX
	David Richards	WR	6-3	180	Fr.	Palmdale, CA
5	Shaquille Richardson	CB	6-1	180	So.	Carson, CA
25	Josh Robbins	S	6-3	198	Fr.	Tucson
81	David Roberts	WR	6-0	205	Sr.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
87	Drew Robinson	TE	6-5	250	Jr.	Coalville, UT
	Jaime Salazar	K	6-0	200	Jr.	Garland, TX
	Tom Savage	QB	6-5	240	Jr.	Springfield, PA
10	Matt Scott	QB	6-3	195	Sr.	Corona, CA
11	Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	200	Fr.	Corona, CA
79	Trent Spurgeon	OL	6-7	303	Fr.	Owasso, OK
75	Kirifi Taula	DT	6-3	280	Fr.	Garden Grove, CA
38	Jared Tevis	DB	5-11	200	So.	Tucson
91	Sione Tuihalamaka	DT	6-2	285	So.	Inglewood, CA
31	Taimi Tutogi	HB/RB	6-1	250	Jr.	Chula Vista, CA
97	Mohammed Usman	DE	6-2	245	Sr.	Arlington, TX
41	Paul Vassallo	LB	6-3	247	Sr.	Reno, NV
24	Trevin Wade	CB	5-11	192	Sr.	Round Rock, TX
95	Jowyn Ward	DT	6-2	295	Jr.	Katy, TX
43	Justin Washington	DT	6-2	280	So.	Cypress, TX
23	Mark Watley	DB	6-2	180	Jr.	Encino, CA
16	Garic Wharton	WR	5-11	168	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
37	Sean Willet	WR	6-1	185	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
14	Alex Zendejas	PK	5-11	190	Sr.	Glendale
75	Shane Zink	OT	6-7	315	Jr.	Redding, CA

NOTEBOOK

One of the big questions on offense is the status of athletic senior quarterback **Matt Scott**. The coaches will try to redshirt him behind **Nick Foles** to let Scott be in line to start in 2012, although a significant injury to Foles could change those plans.

For now, fifth-year senior **Bryson Beirne**, little-used but with a complete grasp of the offense, would be the short-term No. 2.

Scott started the first three games of 2009 before losing his job to Foles, who was the superior passer. But Scott made significant improvement in that area last year, tightening his throwing motion to increase accuracy and add zip.

When Foles missed two full games last season because of a dislocated kneecap, Scott directed the team to wins over Washington and UCLA. He'll prepare to play in 2011, but hopes he doesn't have to.

"I would prefer to redshirt because it would be in the best interests for me," Scott said. "I'm a team player and I like to help my team. But, at the end of the day, I still have to worry about my future."

• Arizona lost four players in the offseason to knee injuries — backup running back **Greg Nwoko**, starting safety **Adam Hall**, starting linebacker **Jake Fischer** and second-string defensive tackle **Willie Mobley**.

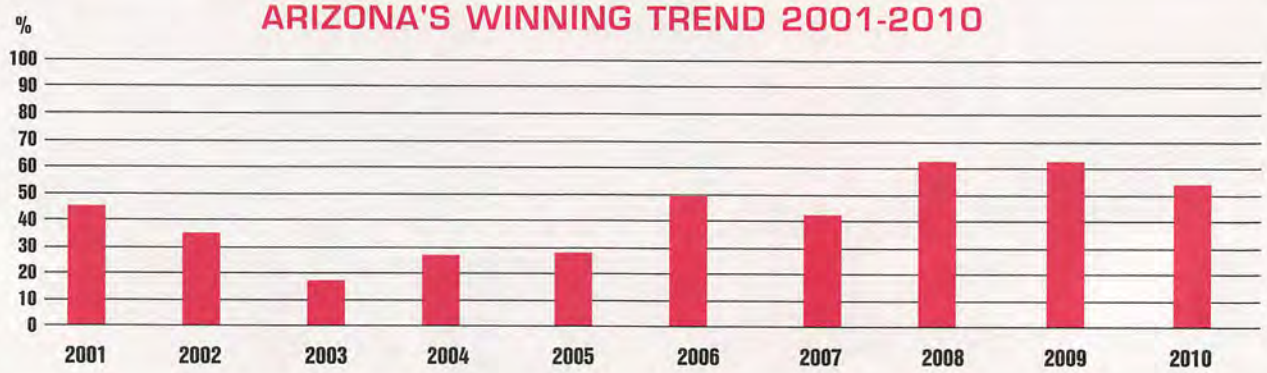
Best-case scenario is for midseason returns, although Hall and Fischer each have redshirt years available.

"Jake and Adam are really going to be hard to replace, just because they were coming into their own as players," coach **Mike Stoops** said. "They were becoming playmakers, and you can never have enough playmakers in this league."

• In May, construction began on the installation of a 5,356-foot video board at Arizona Stadium that will be the largest in the Pac-12. After the season, construction is scheduled to begin on an end zone project that will add new locker rooms, offices, a weight room and the like.

"I think it will have a huge impact on the atmosphere," Stoops said of the new video board, which was set to be in place for the season-opener. "Outside of Oregon, we might have the loudest stadium of anybody (in the Pac-12)."

ARIZONA'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



guys," Stoops said. "We have a plethora of different types of receivers."

Keola Antolin is a capable runner, not flashy. He hits the line of scrimmage quickly and can catch the ball out of the backfield. True freshmen Ka'Deem Carey and Jared Baker could provide some fireworks in the ground game, which Stoops says must be more physical.

That might not be easy with an all-new starting line. Redshirt freshmen could hold down the tackle spots. Center Kyle Quinn is the only lineman who has started a game — and he has started one, in the Alamo Bowl.

"This group has the potential to be really good," Stoops said. "They're probably not as mature mentally and physically as what we've had, but they're much more athletic."

DEFENSE

Arizona returns seven starters, but that counts two players who might be out for the season — free safety Adam Hall and linebacker Jake Fischer, who each suffered a torn ACL in spring ball.

And in May, Willie Mobley, slated to be in the rotation at defensive tackle, tore an ACL playing basketball.

The Wildcats, who are in their nickel package about three-fourths of the time, will certainly miss Hall's hard hitting.

Senior Robert Golden moves back to safety from cornerback, where senior Trevin Wade is looking to regain his sophomore form. Shaquille Richardson and Jonathan McKnight are tall, promising, sophomore corners. Safety Marquis Flowers, the gem of the 2010 recruiting class, will now have a larger role.

That's a good group of five defensive backs, although everyone behind them is unproven. True freshman Cortez Johnson might have the physical maturity to help right away somewhere in the secondary.

Arizona was thin at linebacker before Fischer's injury. A pair of transfers out of the program, and an academic casualty, took away three backups in the spring. That left only returning starters Paul Vassallo and Derek Earls as scholarship players before the fall arrival of three true freshmen. They probably all will play this season.

"We can't lose Derek or Paul," Stoops said.

Both stepped into starting roles last season after transferring from junior college, and Vassallo grew into the team's leading tackler and a vocal leader.

Even without Mobley, the Wildcats have ample mix-and-match possibilities at defensive tackle, led by sophomore Justin Washington. But the backup options, while still plentiful, are inexperienced or young, or both.

There is no such depth or proven talent at end, where Arizona lost three NFL draft picks, including second-rounder Brooks Reed to Houston. C.J. Parish, formerly a linebacker and fullback, took advantage of a 2010 medical redshirt (concussion) to flash good speed at end.

It would be a big help if junior college

Paul Vassallo
Photo by Liam Foley/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 131.7 ypg rushing (8th in Pac-10/88th NCAA), 307.7 passing (1st/9th), 439.4 total offense (3rd/24th), 28.2 ppg (5th/53rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Nick Foles*	Sr.	Issue to fix: Holding the ball too long in the pocket.	Matt Scott, Sr.
RB	Keola Antolin*	Sr.	A bulldog who has 1,830 career rushing yards.	Daniel Jenkins, So.
WR	Juron Criner*	Sr.	Making a case for best receiver in Arizona history.	Austin Hill, Fr.
WR	Dan Buckner	Jr.	Made 44 receptions for Texas in 2009.	Tyler Slavin, Fr.
WR	David Douglas*	Sr.	A nice "third" option who had 52 catches in 2010.	David Roberts, Sr.
WR	Richard Morrison	So.	Ex-QB started to emerge late last season and in spring.	Terrence Miller, Jr.
LT	Mickey Baucus	Fr.	Coaches nearly took him out of his redshirt last year.	Trent Spurgeon, Fr.
LG	Chris Putton	So.	Saw action in five games as a backup last season.	Carter Lees, Fr.
C	Kyle Quinn	Jr.	Played well in Alamo Bowl start, Mike Stoops says.	Addison Bachman, Jr.
RG	Trace Biskin	Jr.	Not much playing experience at all for UA at this spot.	Eric Bender-Ramsay, Fr.
RT	Fabbians Ebbele	Fr.	A promising 6-8 player from Chicago.	Shane Zink, Jr.
K	Alex Zendejas*	Sr.	It will be an open competition in fall camp.	Jaime Salazar, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 131.7 ypg rushing (4th in Pac-10/33rd NCAA), 209.2 passing (4th/46th), 340.9 total defense (3rd/33rd), 22.7 ppg (4th/41st)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	C.J. Parish	Sr.	Pleasant surprise in spring; good burst off edge.	Lamar De Rego, Jr.
DT	Justin Washington*	So.	He brings nice agility to an inside position.	Kirifi Taula, Fr.
DT	Sione Tuihalamaka	So.	Had four starts last season and 23 tackles.	Aiulua Fanene, Fr.
DE	Mohammed Usman	Sr.	Solid spring; missed 10 games last season (academics).	Dan Pettinato, Fr.
LB	Derek Earls*	Sr.	Strong player had 44 tackles, 6.5 for loss in 2010.	Rob Hankins, Fr.
LB	Paul Vassallo*	Sr.	First Cat to hit triple digits (102 tackles) since 2007.	Bilal Muhammed, Sr.
NB	Shaquille Richardson	So.	Former UCLA signee has to be somewhere in rotation.	Jourdon Grandon, Fr.
CB	Jonathan McKnight	So.	Nice spring for brother of ex-USC RB Joe McKnight.	Shaquille Richardson, So.
CB	Trevin Wade*	Sr.	Ten career INTs; lost some focus as a junior.	Derrick Rainey, So.
S	Robert Golden*	Sr.	Started at corner in 2010; needed back at safety now.	Mark Watley, Jr.
S	Marquis Flowers	So.	Was slated to be nickel back until Adam Hall's injury.	Josh Robbins, Fr.
P	Kyle Dugandzic	Jr.	Has reputation for being good with direction, placement.	Alex Zendejas, Sr.

*Returning Starter

WILDCATS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jacob Arzouman	OL	6-5	275	✪✪✪	Tucson, AZ	Salpointe
Earned first-team all-state and all-conference honors…Chose Arizona over Fresno State and Northern Arizona.						
Addison Bachman	OL	6-5	290	✪✪	Glendora, CA	Citrus C.C.
Two-year JUCO starter…Earned all-league and all-area honors at Glendora (Calif.) High School…Chose Arizona over Houston and Memphis…Enrolled at Arizona in January.						
Jared Baker	RB	5-9	180	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Loyola
Rated as the No. 62 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 38 running back…Rushed for 1,150 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior.						
Tra'Mayne Bondurant	DB	5-11	185	✪✪	Fairfield, CA	Fairfield
Played linebacker and quarterback in high school…Also played basketball and baseball…Passed for 2,334 yards and 30 touchdowns, while rushing for 925 yards and 12 TDs as a junior.						
Ka'Deem Carey	RB	5-10	180	✪✪✪✪	Oro Valley, AZ	Canyon Del Oro
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 13 running back… Rushed for 1,754 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior... Rushed for 2,738 yards and 45 touchdowns as a junior…Chose Arizona over Arizona State, Colorado and others.						
Michael Cooper	TE	6-5	230	✪✪✪	The Woodlands, TX	The Woodlands
Earned second-team all-district honors…Also played baseball…Chose Arizona over Air Force, Duke, Miami (Ohio), Rice, Tulane, UNLV, Wyoming and others.						
Lamar De Rego	DE	6-3	252	✪✪✪	San Jose, CA	San Jose C.C.
Earned first-team all-conference honors in 2010…Recorded 29 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks and two forced fumbles in 2010…Chose Arizona over Oregon State.						
Kyle Dugandzic	K	5-11	195	✪✪	Ventura, CA	Ventura C.C.
First-team all-conference selection…Handled placekicking and punting duties… Enrolled at Arizona in January.						
Faitele Faafoi	OL	6-5	300	✪✪✪	Tustin, CA	Tustin
Rated as the nation's No. 75 offensive tackle by Rivals.com…Earned all-league honors….Chose Arizona over Utah.						
Daxx Garman	QB	6-2	185	✪✪✪	Southlake, TX	Carroll
Passed for 2,107 yards and 23 touchdowns as a junior…Chose Arizona over Rice… Enrolled at Arizona in January.						
Reggie Gilbert	DE	6-3	230	✪✪✪	Laveen, AZ	Fairfax
Recorded 58 tackles, 13 sacks and two caused fumbles as a junior…Played defensive end and tight end in high school…Chose Arizona over New Mexico, New Mexico State, San Diego State and others.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Rob Hankins	LB	6-1	219	✪✪✪	Dallas, TX	Parish Episcopal School
Rated as the No. 59 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 20 inside linebacker… Recorded 126 tackles, seven sacks, six forced fumbles, an interception and three fumble recoveries as a senior…Had 136 tackles and 12 sacks as a junior and 105 tackles as a sophomore.						
Hank Hobson	LB	6-2	213	✪✪✪	Bakersfield, CA	Stockdale
Earned all-league and all-area honors…Played linebacker and tight end in high school…Also played baseball.						
Cortez Johnson	DB	6-2	190	✪✪✪	New Orleans, LA	O. Perry Walker
Earned first-team all-state honors…Had two interceptions as a senior…Chose Arizona over Louisiana Tech, Minnesota, Pittsburgh and Southern Miss.						
Lene Maiava	OL	6-5	257	✪✪	American Samoa	Tafuna
Played on offensive and defensive lines in high school…Participated in Polynesian All-American Bowl…Chose Arizona over Hawaii and UNLV.						
Dame Ndiaye	DE	6-5	215	✪✪✪	San Diego, CA	Hoover
Earned first-team all-league honors… Had 36 tackles, seven sacks and three forced fumbles as a senior…Only played football for one year in high school…Also recruited for basketball.						
Patrick Onwuasor	WR	6-2	190	✪✪✪	Inglewood, CA	Inglewood
Rated as the No. 58 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 58 wide receiver… Caught 37 passes for 745 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior… Chose Arizona over Arizona State, Miami, Nebraska and others.						
Domonique Petties	ATH	6-1	210	✪✪✪	Duncan, OK	Duncan
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 44 athlete… Recorded 73 tackles and five sacks as a junior.						
David Richards	ATH	6-3	195	✪✪✪	Palmdale, CA	Palmdale
Rated as the No. 71 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 49 athlete…Had 31 tackles and nine interceptions as a senior…Had 789 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior.						
Drew Robinson	TE	6-5	245	✪✪✪	Ephraim, UT	Snow College
Had 28 receptions for 346 yards and four touchdowns in 2010…Earned second-team NJCAA All-America honors…Starred in basketball in high school.						
Jaime Salazar	K	6-0	200	✪✪	Athens, TX	Trinity Valley C.C.
Earned second-team NJCAA All-America honors…Connected on 14 of 15 field goal attempts in 2010.						

A LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

RESULTS

	7-6, 4-5	
W	at Toledo	41-2
W	CITADEL	52-6
W	IOWA	34-27
W	CALIFORNIA	10-9
L	OREGON STATE	27-29
W	at Washington State	24-7
W	WASHINGTON	44-14
W	at UCLA	29-21
L	at Stanford	17-42
L	USC	21-24
L	at Oregon	29-48
L	ARIZONA STATE (OT)	29-30
	Alamo Bowl	
L	vs. Oklahoma State	10-36

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
N. Foles	11	286	426	10	67.1	3191	20
M. Scott	7	66	93	2	71.0	776	4

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
K. Antolin	13	143	668	4.7	7	78	51.4
N. Grigsby	12	118	533	4.5	8	62	44.4
G. Nwoko	13	57	270	4.7	3	32	20.8

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Criner	13	82	1233	15.0	11	85	94.8
D. Douglas	13	52	515	9.9	5	38	39.6
D. Roberts	12	44	487	11.1	2	38	40.6

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: P. Vassallo 102, J. Perkins 70, R. Golden 60
Tackles for loss: R. Elmore 13, J. Washington 11.5, B. Reed 10
Sacks: R. Elmore 11, B. Reed 6.5, J. Washington 6
Interceptions: J. Perkins 2, A. Hall 2, S. Richardson 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	NORTHERN ARIZONA	6-5
Sept. 8	at Oklahoma State	11-2
Sept. 17	STANFORD	12-1
Sept. 24	OREGON	12-1
Oct. 1	at USC	8-5
Oct. 8	at Oregon State	5-7
Oct. 20	UCLA	4-8
Oct. 29	at Washington	7-6
Nov. 5	UTAH	10-3
Nov. 12	at Colorado	5-7
Nov. 19	at Arizona State	6-6
Nov. 26	LOUISIANA	3-9

PLAYER PROFILE

Juron Criner
Photo by Chris Morrison-US PRESSWIRE

Senior Ready to be A '100-catch Guy'

There was a preseason concussion. A turf toe injury. A stress fracture in his foot. Problems with his ribs.

At an estimated 75 to 80 percent, Juron Criner turned in one of the finest receiving performances in school history last season: 82 catches for 1,233 yards and 11 touchdowns.

There is little doubt Arizona will throw the ball even more than it did last season, so, with a full season of health, Criner could topple the single-season school record of 93 catches, set by Bobby Wade in 2002.

"Juron is a very complete player," coach Mike Stoops said.

"He has the ability to make short throws into big plays. He has the ability to break tackles. He has great strength. He has separation speed. He has great timing, so he can go after jump balls. ... Saying all that, I think Juron can go to another level. He ought to be a 100-catch guy."

Opposing defenses will have to comply. Arizona is deep and talented at receiver, able to fill its four-wide spread attack with high-quality targets. But if there is one guy that defensive coordinators want to try to take away, it's Criner.

"If they double him all day, we can't beat our head against a wall," Stoops said. "We have to know how to use him as a decoy and isolate some of these other guys."

At 6-4, Criner is hard to stop, which makes looking back at his recruiting rankings out of Canyon Springs High School in Las Vegas all the more laughable. Scout.com rated Criner the nation's 167th-best receiver after his senior season in 2007.

The UA coaches looked at his athleticism (he also was a standout basketball player) and his production (25 touchdown receptions as a senior) and saw nothing but a gem. Criner played some at Arizona as a true freshman and hit his stride about halfway through his sophomore season.

He considered turning pro after his big junior year, when he was generally projected to go in the late second round or early third round.

"But even if I had gotten an early second/late first, I think coming back would have been the better chance," Criner said. "There are a lot of things that I'm not ready for. And going out on my own and experiencing the real world is one of them.

"This college family and the college atmosphere, I wasn't ready to give that up. I'll leave when my time is up."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Nick Foles

The senior has NFL size, with accuracy on short throws and the arm to air it out when needed. ... Completed 67.1 percent of his throws last season; coach Mike Stoops says he'd like to see Foles at 70 percent. ... Has had three career games with more than 400 passing yards, including 448 vs. Oregon last season. ... Threw for 5,677 yards in two seasons; will easily get to No. 2 on school's passing chart and could threaten record of 9,211 with full season of health.

EMERGING STAR

DT Justin Washington

He redshirted in 2009 and then quickly earned a starting spot in the 2010 season. ... Has nice quickness on the inside, and he used that to come up with six sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss. Washington finished with 46 tackles as he earned some Freshman All-America recognition. ... With a trio of veteran departures at defensive end, Washington finds himself as the team's best and most experienced lineman as a sophomore.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Ka'Deem Carey

Landing the best recruit in the city is always good for business, and Carey should enliven a pedestrian ground attack with his big-play ability. ... He rushed for 2,738 yards and 45 scores as a junior before playing through injuries as a senior at Canyon del Oro High in Tucson. He still managed to rush for 1,754 yards and 26 scores last season. ... Carey and Jared Baker give UA two intriguing freshman runners.

transfer defensive end Lamar De Rego can be an impact player right away.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Alex Zendejas needs to get more height on his kicks and show he's emotionally recovered from having two extra-point attempts blocked in a double-overtime loss to Arizona State. Coaches will challenge him with junior college transfer Jaime Salazar.

JC transfer Kyle Dugandzic arrived for spring to take over punting duties from erratic Keenyn Crier. Redshirt freshman receiver Garic Wharton will debut his sprinter's speed on kick returns this year.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Arizona might have the most difficult September in the nation — not exactly good news for a team that enters the season on a five-game skid. The Wildcats, after opening against lower-division Northern Arizona, play three of *Lindy's* preseason Top 10 teams in a row — Oklahoma State (on a Thursday), Stanford and Oregon.

After that comes road games at USC and Oregon State. All five of those teams defeated Arizona last season.

If the Cats survive the first half of the schedule, they could charge in the easier second half.

"If you look at it on paper, it could be overwhelming," Stoops said of the early schedule. "But our guys are confident enough, and they know they've played well against all these teams in segments."

—Anthony Gimino

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

For more coverage of the Sun Devils, visit arizonastate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Noel Mazzone | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Craig Bray | **STADIUM:** Sun Devil Stadium: 71,706

AT A GLANCE

2010:
6-6, 4-5 Pac-10 (T-6th)

COACH:
Dennis Erickson — At Arizona State: 25-23, 4 years; overall: 173-89-1, 22 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
14; 8 offense, 6 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
RB Cameron Marshall, RB Deantre Lewis, WR Gerell Robinson, WR Mike Willie, C Garth Gerhart, DE Junior Onyeali, DT Will Sutton, MLB Vontaze Burfict

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The defense is experienced and plays with an attitude. Burfict is one of the top linebackers in the country, and Onyeali is a nuisance at defensive end. On offense, the Sun Devils have speed in several spots and should break big plays. The offensive line returns all five starters.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Brock Osweiler is the only experienced quarterback on the roster — and he has all of two career starts. Omar Bolden's knee injury leaves ASU dangerously thin at cornerback. One of the returnees, Deveron Carr, is effective, but his last two seasons have ended in shoulder surgery.

KEY LOSSES:
WR Kerry Taylor, DT Lawrence Guy, DT Saia Falahola, K Thomas Weber, P Trevor Hankins

OVERVIEW:
The Sun Devils haven't been to a bowl since the 2007 season, and fans are beyond restless. Erickson has said all along this would be the year ASU is in position to contend. With ample talent on both sides, the veteran coach knows it's time to produce. The Sun Devils are talented enough to overcome their shortcomings, and the schedule is favorable.

New Look? Devils Decked Out For Return to Postseason

In April, Arizona State unveiled a new logo and spiffy black uniforms. The Sun Devils did this under the slogan of "It's Time." Time to write the next chapter. Time to move forward. Time to play for the Roses, again.

It was a nice moment for the university — the uniforms certainly were a big hit — but many fans think it's *past* time for this program. Not only have the Sun Devils not played in a Rose Bowl since 1997, they haven't been to a bowl of any kind since the 2007 season.

The narrow losses have gotten old, and Dennis Erickson's job is on the line. The veteran coach, who won two national championships once upon a time at Miami, could have to compete for the Pac-12's South Division title to save his job. At 64, Erickson isn't backing down from the challenge.

"This is my fifth year," Erickson said. "If we win seven games, is it the end of the world? Not really. But I think this team is capable of winning some games and having an opportunity to compete for the (Pac-12) championship. To me, it's a very important season for this program. No question about it."

Erickson claims to have told Lisa Love, ASU's Vice President of Athletics, during his job interview that it would take four years to get the program running, to get everything in place. In that sense, he appears to be on the mark.

ASU, with a strong senior class of 30, returns 30 players who started at least twice last season, although that group includes cornerback Omar Bolden and receiver T.J. Simpson, players who suffered ACL injuries in spring practice.

Last season, the Sun Devils went 6-6, losing to BCS Bowl participants Wisconsin, Oregon and Stanford by a combined 16 points. They lost another game, at USC, by a point. They think this shows they can play with the best college football has to offer. The next step is simple: win.

OFFENSE

In 2010, Noel Mazzone, in his first season as ASU's offensive coordinator, installed a quick-strike spread attack that produced 32.2 points per game, nearly a 10-point improvement from the previous season.

Year Two will bring experience within the offense, but it also will feature a new quarterback.

Junior Brock Osweiler takes over for Steven Threet, who started ASU's first 11 games last season, but missed most of the final two because of symptoms relating to concussions. In February, Threet, still suffering from headaches, walked away from his final season of eligibility.

At 6-8, Osweiler is the tallest player on ASU's roster. He has a strong arm, but just two career starts. Last season, he replaced Threet against UCLA and threw for 380 yards and four touchdowns. The following week against rival Arizona, he wasn't nearly as sharp, but his will to win impressed Erickson and Mazzone.

"Before those last two games, I wasn't sure he was ready," Mazzone said. "Playing the position is a process. All the different emotions he went through last season (as a back-up and starter), I think that's the mettle that makes up good quarterbacks."

Osweiler doesn't have to be perfect, just steady, getting the ball to the Sun Devils' playmakers. Everyone watching spring practice recognized that senior receiver Gerell Robinson is poised, finally, for a breakout season. Mike Willie and Aaron Pflugrad also make capable targets.

ASU has several options in the backfield. Even Mazzone admits that ASU might not have given junior Cameron Marshall enough touches last season. Marshall, quick and sturdy, provided the highlight of spring drills when he ran through All-American linebacker Vontaze Burfict

Vontaze Burfict
Photo by Mark J. Rebilas-US PRESSWIRE

SUN DEVILS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
18	Oliver Aaron	LB	6-0	208	Sr.	Gainesville, FL
68	Corey Adams	DT	6-3	285	Jr.	Scottsdale
58	Sil Ajawara	OL	6-3	297	Fr.	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
30	Derrall Anderson	LB	6-2	231	Sr.	Tampa, FL
19	Kevin Anderson	WR	5-9	175	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
18	Joe Arreguin	QB	6-2	208	Sr.	Tucson
	Kevin Ayers	S	6-0	200	Jr.	Lynwood, CA
57	Charles Beatty	LB	5-11	224	Jr.	Phoenix
13	George Bell	WR	6-3	203	Sr.	San Diego, CA
2	Mike Bercovici	QB	6-1	205	Fr.	Calabasas, CA
	Ezekiel Bishop	ATH	5-10	182	Fr.	Denver, CO
3	Omar Bolden	CB	5-10	195	Sr.	Ontario, CA
48	Carl Bradford	LB	6-0	247	Fr.	Norco, CA
34	James Brooks	DE	6-5	279	Sr.	Flagstaff
84	Jarrid Bryant	WR	6-5	180	So.	Salisbury, CT
7	Vontaze Burfict	LB	6-3	252	Jr.	Corona, CA
34	D.J. Bush	RB	5-11	202	Fr.	San Jose, CA
1	Deveron Carr	CB	5-11	193	Jr.	Scottsdale
	Gary Chambers	WR	6-3	195	Fr.	Glendale
56	Jesse Clark	LB	6-2	236	Fr.	Tempe
20	Jonathan Clark	S	6-0	200	Sr.	Arlington, TX
	Davon Coleman	DE	6-3	250	So.	Cleveland, OH
95	Gannon Conway	DE	6-4	255	Jr.	Higley
87	Christopher Coyle	TE	6-3	235	So.	Westlake Village, CA
4	Alden Darby	CB	5-10	176	So.	Long Beach, CA
55	Chris De Armas	OL	6-4	292	Sr.	Miami, FL
74	Jamil Douglas	OL	6-4	268	Fr.	Cypress, CA
	Joe Eason	CB	5-11	170	Fr.	Pahokee, FL
2	Eddie Elder	S	5-10	186	Sr.	Sacramento, CA
64	Nick Emanuele	OL	6-6	277	Sr.	San Diego, CA
	Michael Eubank	QB	6-5	232	Fr.	Corona, CA
23	Preon Evans	DB	6-0	170	Fr.	Inglewood, CA
32	Harrison Evens	CB	5-10	180	So.	Tempe
62	Evan Finkenberg	OL	6-6	290	So.	Coto De Caza, CA
9	Clint Floyd	S	5-10	198	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
94	Parker Flynn	PK	5-11	180	Fr.	Orange, CA
88	Josh Fulton	TE	6-5	235	Fr.	Phoenix
36	Alex Garoutte	PK	6-1	184	Fr.	Phoenix
52	Garth Gerhart	OL	6-2	295	Sr.	Norco, CA
	Devin Goodman	OL	6-2	270	Fr.	Lakeland, FL
46	Brock Gorubec	RB	6-2	215	So.	Clovis, CA
80	J.J. Holliday	WR	6-1	170	So.	Tucson
	Karl Holmes	WR	6-3	180	Fr.	Pasadena, CA
47	Josh Hubner	P	6-4	230	Jr.	Scottsdale
19	Osahon Irabor	CB	5-11	180	So.	Upland, CA
92	Jamaar Jarrett	DE	6-5	260	Sr.	San Marcos, CA
53	Brandon Johnson	LB	6-2	215	So.	Oakland, CA
10	Keelan Johnson	S	6-0	201	Jr.	Mesa
78	Kyle Johnson	OL	6-7	292	Jr.	Norco, CA
31	Anthony Jones	LB	6-2	217	So.	Chandler
41	Cameron Kastl	LS	6-4	231	Sr.	Phoenix
15	Taylor Kelly	QB	6-1	195	Fr.	Eagle, ID
35	Ronald Kennedy, Jr.	CB	5-10	175	So.	Cerritos, CA
69	Dan Knapp	OL	6-5	275	Sr.	Reno, NV
83	Randy Knust	WR	6-2	188	Fr.	The Woodlands, TX
67	Kody Koebensky	OL	6-4	300	So.	Scottsdale
45	Trevor Kohl	TE	6-1	245	Sr.	Gilbert
	Kipeli Koniseti	ATH	6-3	235	So.	Sacramento, CA
	Mo Latu	DE	6-3	306	Fr.	Gilbert
25	Deantre Lewis	RB	5-10	189	So.	Norco, CA
6	Shelly Lyons	LB	6-2	230	Sr.	Corona, CA
16	Angelo Magee	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Corona, CA
8	Brandon Magee	LB	5-11	230	Sr.	Corona, CA
70	Mike Marcisz	OL	6-5	304	Sr.	Livermore, CA
68	Trent Marsh	OL	6-2	318	Sr.	Wildwood, MO
26	Cameron Marshall	RB	5-11	223	Jr.	San Jose, CA
	Isreal Marshall	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	Phoenix
89	Chike Mbanefo	WR	5-9	175	Fr.	Mission Hills, CA
29	Shane McCullen	S	6-2	200	So.	Apache Junction
49	Jordan McDonald	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	Scottsdale
7	Kyle Middlebrooks	WR	5-8	175	So.	Fountain Valley, CA
32	Jamal Miles	WR	5-10	181	Jr.	Peoria
	David Moala	DL	6-1	285	Fr.	Gardena, CA
61	Bo Moos	DL	6-0	286	Sr.	Eugene, OR
22	James Morrison	RB	5-11	214	Jr.	Phoenix
	Sean O'Grady	DL	6-3	230	Fr.	Las Flores, CA
57	Thomas Ohmart	LS	6-1	231	Sr.	Scottsdale
97	Junior Onyeali	DE/LB	5-11	233	So.	Denver, CO
17	Brock Osweiler	QB	6-8	235	Jr.	Kalispell, MT
82	Kevin Ozier	WR	6-0	201	So.	San Diego, CA
21	Colin Parker	LB	6-1	228	Sr.	Chandler
4	Aaron Pflugrad	WR	5-10	180	Sr.	Missoula, MT
9	A.J. Pickens	WR	5-10	176	Jr.	Chino, CA
8	Gerell Robinson	WR	6-4	222	Sr.	Phoenix
35	R.J. Robinson	RB	5-8	184	So.	Glendale
	Rashad Ross	WR	6-0	170	Jr.	Vallejo, CA
72	Andrew Sampson	OL	6-3	303	Jr.	Aurora, CO
79	Chip Sarafin	OL	6-6	350	Fr.	Gilbert
16	Jeremy Sawyer	CB	5-10	170	So.	Peoria
71	Brice Schwab	OL	6-7	302	Sr.	West Sunbury, PA
81	Brent Scott	WR	6-0	177	Fr.	Carson, CA
73	Aderious Simmons	OL	6-7	310	Sr.	New Orleans, LA
86	T.J. Simpson	WR	6-1	188	Sr.	Peoria
17	Gregory Smith	DE	6-3	255	Jr.	Perris, CA
85	Max Smith	TE	6-2	248	So.	Scottsdale
25	Devan Spann	CB	5-11	175	Fr.	Gardena, CA
54	Tyler Sulka	OL	6-4	270	Fr.	Sherman Oaks, CA
90	William Sutton	DT	6-2	285	So.	Corona, CA
41	Grandville Taylor	LB	6-0	226	So.	San Francisco, CA
99	Joita Te'I	DL	6-4	267	Fr.	Oceanside, CA
77	Adam Tello	OL	6-3	292	Sr.	Norco, CA
	Vi Teofilo	OL	6-3	280	Fr.	Phoenix
12	Matthew Tucker	S	6-1	197	So.	Aurora, CO
96	Toa Tuitea	DE	6-3	280	Jr.	Westminster, CA
93	Andrew Vasquez	PK	6-0	185	Fr.	Duarte, CA
	Rashad Wadood	CB	5-10	180	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
	Brent Walker	OL	6-5	300	Fr.	Norco, CA
20	Marcus Washington	RB	5-11	212	Fr.	Phoenix
76	Oluwakayode Whesu	OL	6-3	285	Jr.	Providance, RI
22	Austin Williams	DB	5-11	185	Sr.	Santa Rosa, CA
98	Lee Williams	P	5-9	194	So.	Phoenix
1	Mike Willie	WR	6-4	215	Sr.	Long Beach, CA

NOTEBOOK

One of ASU's biggest storylines entering fall camp: The battle to be quarterback **Brock Osweiler's** backup. Redshirt freshman **Taylor Kelly** ran the second team during the spring, but he was pushed by true freshman **Mike Bercovici**.

For the first week of spring drills, Bercovici created a buzz. His quick release and strong arm might have been overshadowed only by his ability to take command of the offense. He outplayed Kelly for most of the spring, but Erickson might opt to redshirt the freshman.

Another freshman, **Michael Eubank**, will join the competition in the fall. Erickson says that one through four, this is as talented a group of quarterbacks as he has had, but it also might be the most inexperienced.

• An offensive lineman to keep an eye on: **Aderious Simmons**. The senior right tackle — 6-7, 310 pounds — didn't play football in high school. He attended four junior colleges before ASU offensive line coach **Gregg Smith** spotted Simmons and figured he'd be worth a shot. A part-time starter, Simmons spent most of last year trying to get acclimated to major college football. The Sun Devils expect more this year.

"Just looking at him, he's the type of offensive lineman that any coach would drool over," center **Garth Gerhart** said.

• Over the past two years, offensive coordinator **Noel Mazzone** has helped prepare two college quarterbacks for the NFL Draft. Both ended up as first-round draft picks. Tim Tebow last year, Christian Ponder this year.

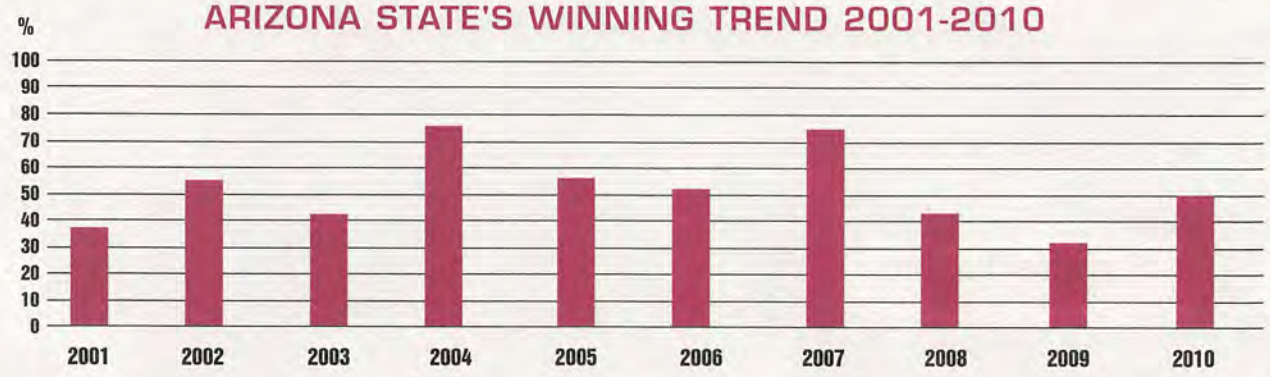
Mazzone has continued working with Tebow, in his second season with the Denver Broncos.

"His agent is a very good friend of mine," Mazzone said.

"Two years ago, Tim had gone to the Senior Bowl and looked bad, so the next day (his agent) called me said, 'If I fly you in, can you see if there's something you can do for him?' So I flew into Nashville, where Tim was working out and we just hit it off. ...

"I always kid him. I say, 'You were at best a fourth-round (draft) pick until I started working with you, and then you became a first-round pick.'"

ARIZONA STATE'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



during a scrimmage.

"I don't think I've ever seen someone do that to (Burfict), to be perfectly honest with you," Erickson said.

Sophomores Deantre Lewis and Kyle Middlebrooks also will get opportunities behind a line that returns all five starters. In fact, led by three-year starting center Garth Gerhart, this might be ASU's deepest line since Erickson arrived in Tempe.

DEFENSE

The Sun Devils didn't have a great spring, and it had little to do with their performance.

Cornerback Omar Bolden, who had considered declaring for the NFL Draft after his junior season, tore his ACL and will miss, at minimum, most of his senior season. Not only was Bolden a unanimous All-Pac-10 selection last season, he also was a team leader, and his presence will be missed, especially at practice.

Complicating matters, corner was the one place where ASU has little depth. Junior Deveron Carr has played well, but his last two seasons have ended in shoulder surgeries. Osahon Irabor, who started last season's final seven games, is the only other corner with college experience.

ASU is in good shape elsewhere, particularly at linebacker, where *Lindy's* preseason Defensive Player of the Year Vontaze Burfict roams the middle. Youtube has provided an abbreviated history of Burfict's first two years at ASU, showing both his hard hits and personal fouls. Occasionally, the yellow flags have overshadowed his performance, but Burfict has promised to reverse that this season.

"If he does what he's doing right now, he has the capability to be as good as anybody in the country," Erickson said.

In the offseason, Burfict and Bolden organized joint film sessions so the defensive backs and linebackers could get a better feel for where everyone will be positioned on the field. The hope is that it brings a familiarity that allows the Sun Devils to blitz and take more chances.

Eddie Elder, Clint Floyd and Keelan Johnson return at the safety spots, but sophomore Alden Darby likely will find his way onto the field, even if coordinator Craig Bray has to move him to cornerback.

Up front, ASU lost defensive tackle Lawrence Guy to the NFL Draft but returns speedy end Junior Onyeali, who last season won the program's second consecutive Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of the Year award. Onyeali posted 6.5 sacks in just five starts.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Let's start with the positive: Even with Omar Bolden hurt, ASU has several dynamic returners.

Kyle Middlebrooks averaged 26.4 yards per kickoff return last season, and is probably remembered most for getting tackled one yard short of the end zone on the last play of the first half in a close game at

Brock Osweiler
Photo by Doug James/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 139.3 ypg rushing (7th in Pac-10/78th NCAA), 286.4 passing (2nd/15th), 425.7 total offense (5th/29th), 32.3 ppg (3rd/28th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Brock Osweiler	Jr.	Only two career starts, but coaches love his leadership.	Taylor Kelly, Fr.
RB	Cameron Marshall*	Jr.	Rushed for 787 yards last year; should get more carries.	Deantre Lewis, So.
WR	Mike Willie*	Sr.	Red-zone threat caught team-high six TD passes last year.	Kevin Anderson, Fr.
WR	Aaron Pflugrad	Sr.	Could move to outside after playing slot last year.	Jamal Miles, Jr.
WR	Gerell Robinson*	Sr.	Had a strong finish last season and a great spring.	Chris Coyle, So.
TE	Trevor Kohl	Sr.	Steady blocker Erickson simply describes as "a player."	Chris Coyle, So.
LT	Evan Finkenberg*	So.	Started 11 times last year as a redshirt freshman.	Jamil Douglas, Fr.
LG	Mike Marcisz*	Sr.	Will battle Adam Tello for a starting spot in fall camp.	Adam Tello, Sr.
C	Garth Gerhart*	Sr.	Three-year starter is ASU's most consistent lineman.	Kody Koebensky, So.
RG	Andrew Sampson*	Jr.	Former back-up center has found a home at guard.	Brice Schwab, Sr.
RT	Dan Knapp*	Sr.	Came to ASU as a tight end; in his second year at RT.	Aderious Simmons, Sr.
K	Alex Garoutte	Fr.	Struggled at start of spring drills, but finished strong.	Parker Flynn, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 119.7 ypg rushing (1st in Pac-10/16th NCAA), 245.3 passing (8th/101st), 364.9 total defense (5th/57th), 25.0 ppg (5th/55th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Junior Onyeali	So.	Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of Year is short, but quick.	Jamaar Jarrett, Sr.
DT	Will Sutton	So.	Starred in 2010 fall camp, but missed season (academics).	Toa Tuitea, Jr.
DT	Bo Moos	Sr.	Steady performer always finds way onto field.	Corey Adams, Jr.
DE	James Brooks*	Sr.	Has all the tools, but has yet to reach his potential.	Greg Smith, Jr.
LB	Shelly Lyons	Sr.	Missed the final five games of last season with a foot injury.	Colin Parker, Sr.
LB	Vontaze Burfict*	Jr.	Controlled emotions could make him best in the country.	Carl Bradford, Fr.
LB	Brandon Magee*	Sr.	Missed spring to play baseball, but was solid last year.	Oliver Aaron, Sr.
CB	Deveron Carr	Jr.	Effective when he's on the field, but injuries are a concern.	Devan Spann, Fr.
CB	Osahon Irabor*	So.	Started seven times last season, but still learning position.	Harrison Evens, So.
SS	Eddie Elder*	Sr.	Playmaker had 5.5 TFLs and two INTs last season.	Clint Floyd, Sr.*
FS	Alden Darby	So.	Could move to corner in wake of Omar Bolden's injury.	Keelan Johnson, Jr.
P	Josh Hubner	Jr.	Has an all-conference leg, but battles inconsistency.	Lee Williams, So.

*Returning Starter

SUN DEVILS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Stanley Absanon	ATH	6-0	170	✪✪	Lakeland, FL	Tenoroc
Scored 10 total touchdowns as a senior, including three scores on kickoff and punt returns…Also participated in basketball and track in high school.						
Kevin Ayers	DB	6-0	205	✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	West Los Angeles C.C.
Recorded 54 tackles, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and four pass breakups in 2010…Brother of former UCLA linebacker Akeem Ayers.						
Michael Bercovici	QB	6-2	205	✪✪✪	Woodland Hills, CA	Taft
Rated as the No. 50 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 14 pro-style quarterback…Threw for 3,755 yards and 37 touchdowns as a senior.						
Ezekiel Bishop	ATH	5-10	182	✪✪✪	Denver, CO	Denver East
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 55 athlete… Recorded 84 tackles, four sacks, three pass deflections, two blocked punts, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery as a senior.						
Gary Chambers	WR	6-3	195	✪✪	Glendale, AZ	Ironwood
Had 38 receptions for 655 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior…Earned first-team all-region honors as a junior.						
Davon Coleman	DE	6-3	250	✪✪✪	Fort Scott, KS	Fort Scott C.C.
Recorded 65 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, two pass breakups and one interception in 2010…Earned honorable mention All-Ohio honors in 2008 at Cleveland (Ohio) Glenville.						
Joe Eason	DB	5-11	170	✪✪	Pahokee, FL	Pahokee
Honorable mention all-area selection…Chose Arizona State over offers from Buffalo, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, South Florida and Western Michigan.						
Michael Eubank	QB	6-5	232	✪✪✪✪	Corona, CA	Centennial
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 22 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 8 dual-threat quarterback… Completed 165 of 245 passes for 2,831 yards with 22 touchdowns, while rushing for 1,329 yards on 136 carries and 19 scores as a senior.						
Devin Goodman	OL	6-2	270	✪✪✪	Lakeland, FL	Lakeland
Helped lead the way for a teammate to rush for the third-most yards in Florida history in 2010…Chose Arizona State over Marshall.						
Karl Holmes	WR	6-3	180	✪✪	Pasadena, CA	Muir
Had 23 receptions for 628 yards and six touchdowns as a senior…Also ran track in high school.						
Josh Hubner	K	6-4	225	✪✪	Scottsdale, AZ	Scottsdale C.C.
Averaged 40.2 yards on 41 punts in 2010… Played quarterback, wide receiver, tight end, defensive end and linebacker in high school…Enrolled at Arizona State in January.						
Mo Latu	OL	6-3	306	✪✪✪✪	Gilbert, AZ	Perry
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 2 offensive center…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Isreal Marshall	LB	6-2	200	✪✪✪	Phoenix, AZ	Mountain Pointe
Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com… Recorded 67 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions as a senior.						
David Moala	DT	6-1	285	✪✪	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Recorded 91 tackles, 18.5 sacks and one interception as a senior…Chose Arizona State over Colorado State, San Diego State and San Jose State.						
Sean O'Grady	DE	6-3	230	✪✪	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	Tesoro
Recorded 55 tackles, 11 sacks, five pass deflections, three fumble recoveries and one forced fumble as a senior…Chose Arizona State over Colorado State, San Diego State and Washington State.						
Rashad Ross	WR	6-0	170	✪✪	Oroville, CA	Butte C.C.
Had 17 receptions for 368 yards and three touchdowns and 180 rushing yards in 2010...Added 498 yards on kickoff returns and 195 yards on punt returns.						
Vivii Teofilo	OL	6-3	295	✪✪✪	Phoenix, AZ	Moon Valley
Recorded 46 tackles, six sacks, one interception and one forced fumble as a senior… Earned first-team all-region honors as a junior.						
Rashad Wadood	DB	5-10	180	✪✪✪	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Recorded 40 tackles and three interceptions on defense as a senior, while rushing for more than for 800 yards and nine touchdowns...Had 37 tackles, six pass deflections and three interceptions as a junior…Chose Arizona State over Colorado, Miami and others.						
Brent Walker	OL	6-5	300	✪✪✪	Norco, CA	Norco
Rated as the No. 76 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Arizona State over Colorado State, Miami, New Mexico State, San Diego State, UCLA, Utah and Wyoming.						

A LOOK AT THE SUN DEVILS

RESULTS

6-6, 4-5

W	PORTLAND STATE	54-9
W	NORTHERN ARIZONA	41-20
L	at Wisconsin	19-20
L	OREGON	31-42
L	at Oregon State	28-31
W	at Washington	24-14
L	at California	17-50
W	WASHINGTON STATE	42-0
L	at USC	33-34
L	STANFORD	13-17
W	UCLA	55-34
W	at Arizona (OT)	30-29

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
S. Threet	11	208	336	16	61.9	2534	18
B. Osweiler	6	62	109	0	56.9	797	5

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Marshall	12	150	787	5.2	9	71	65.6
D. Lewis	11	92	539	5.9	4	53	49.0
B. Osweiler	6	38	124	3.3	1	20	20.7

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
K. Taylor	12	54	699	12.9	3	54	58.2
M. Willie	12	36	442	12.3	6	40	36.8
T.J. Simpson	12	29	481	16.6	0	78	40.1

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: V. Burfict 90, B. Magee 73, E. Elder 64
Tackles for loss: J. Onyeali 11.5, J. Jarrett 10.5, V. Burfict 8.5
Sacks: J. Onyeali 6.5, J. Jarrett 4.5, J. Brooks 4
Interceptions: O. Bolden 3, E. Elder 2, M. Tabach 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 1	UC DAVIS	6-5
Sept. 9	MISSOURI	10-3
Sept. 17	at Illinois	7-6
Sept. 24	USC	8-5
Oct. 1	OREGON STATE	5-7
Oct. 8	at Utah	10-3
Oct. 15	at Oregon	12-1
Oct. 29	COLORADO	5-7
Nov. 5	at UCLA	4-8
Nov. 12	at Washington State	2-10
Nov. 19	ARIZONA	7-6
Nov. 25	CALIFORNIA	5-7

PLAYER PROFILE

Gerell Robinson
Photo by Charles Baus/Icon SMI

Robinson Ready to Fulfill Big Potential

Gerell Robinson looks like an NFL draft pick. The senior receiver stands 6-4, 222 pounds. On the field, he can out-jump a defensive back or absorb a hit over the middle.

He's an intriguing prospect, except for one thing: Robinson has yet to consistently produce in a big way on game day.

Oh, there have been flashes. Nice games here and there, but nothing that jumps out on a stat sheet. And Robinson recognizes as much.

"To be honest, this is the first time since I've been here that I feel fully acclimated to playing receiver," he said.

"I think it showed in the past few (spring) practices and toward the end of last season. But I wouldn't say I'm trying to prove anything to anybody. Everybody talks about potential and the next level and everything else. I just know I need to do everything I can to put myself in position to succeed."

Playing multiple positions, Robinson was a can't-miss prospect coming out of Hamilton High School in Chandler, Ariz. Big-time programs from all over the country offered scholarships, including USC, Florida, Tennessee and Nebraska. Robinson chose ASU, and played as a freshman.

He caught three passes for 26 yards and had his share of drops. Looking back, coach Dennis Erickson says he probably should've redshirted Robinson, just to give him a chance to get used to playing receiver full time. Robinson disagrees; the experience was too valuable, he says.

He started five times and caught 26 passes for 261 yards as a sophomore. Last season, Robinson had a great spring but injured his hamstring in the fall. He missed the season opener and played sparingly the next two weeks. Then he flashed his potential.

Against Oregon, Robinson caught seven passes for 94 yards. The next week against Oregon State, he had four catches for 73 yards and his first career touchdown.

Robinson finished the season with 29 catches for 387 yards and five touchdowns. This year, he expects to double that production, fulfilling the promise he brought to Tempe coming out of high school.

"When I first got here, I'd get locked up by (cornerback) Omar Bolden in practice, and it would just frustrate me to the point where I would take it out on the next person," Robinson said.

"I'd end up running them over and it just looked bad. Now I feel like I can do anything any receiver in the league can do."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

MLB Vontaze Burfict

Whenever ASU plays, it's hard to take your eyes off No. 7. ... His aggression is seldom matched, and at times, it's gotten Burfict in trouble with officials. He says that won't be a problem this season. Will Burfict play nice? Probably not all the time; that's just not his style. Still, Burfict has all the tools to become one of the nation's best players. ... Had five games last season with double-digit tackles. ... Finished with team-high 90 stops.

EMERGING STAR

DE Junior Onyeali

Last year's Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of the Year had a team-high 11.5 tackles for loss, including 6.5 sacks in only five starts. ... Onyeali missed spring practice with a shoulder injury, but there's no reason to think he won't be better as a sophomore. ... Had three sacks and two forced fumbles against Washington State. ... Selected as the state of Colorado's Defensive Player of the Year by the *Denver Post* as a senior in the 2009 season.

TOP NEWCOMER

CB Devan Spann

Because of injuries, the redshirt freshman hasn't played since 2009, but that will change this season. Spann saw first-team reps in spring practice after Omar Bolden injured his knee. ... ASU doesn't have much depth at corner, so Spann likely will be called upon to produce right away. ... Rivals.com rated Spann as the No. 74 cornerback prospect in the country when he was a senior at Serra High School in Gardena, Calif.

Wisconsin. Jamal Miles returned a kickoff for a touchdown last season, and Deantre Lewis also is capable.

Kicker Thomas Weber and punter Trevor Hankins graduated. Redshirt freshman kicker Alex Garoutte had a terrible start to spring practice, but finished strong. Junior college transfer Josh Hubner will punt. He has an explosive leg, but needs to improve his consistency.

ASU blocked six kicks last season, which tied a school record that dates to 1992. The biggest deflections belonged to James Brooks, who blocked two extra point attempts to help the Sun Devils escape with a 30-29 overtime win over rival Arizona.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

After three consecutive non-winning seasons, ASU needs a quick start to fire up its fan base. The good news: It's possible. The Sun Devils open with UC-Davis and Missouri at Sun Devil Stadium. (They are expected to wear their new black uniforms for the Missouri game, which will be played on a Friday night on ESPN.)

From there, ASU travels to Illinois before returning home for its first Pac-12 game against USC. It's not far-fetched to think the Sun Devils could be 3-0 when they battle the Trojans, which would produce a build-up Tempe hasn't seen in a while.

Overall, ASU has seven home games. Its toughest stretch: Consecutive October road games against Utah and Oregon, but for the most part ASU's road schedule is manageable.

— Doug Haller

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

For more coverage of the Golden Bears, visit cal.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Michalczik **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Clancy Pendergast **STADIUM:** Memorial: 71, 799

AT A GLANCE

2010:
5-7, 3-6 Pac-10 (8th)

COACH:
Jeff Tedford — At Cal and overall: 72-42, 9 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
14; 6 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
WR/KR/DB Keenan Allen, WR Marvin Jones, TE Anthony Miller, OT Mitchell Schwartz, LB Mychal Kendricks, S Sean Cattouse, P Bryan Anger

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The offense has playmakers on the perimeter and a veteran line. The linebacking unit is deep and talented with Kendricks and D.J. Holt as the anchors. Cattouse is one of the league's top safeties. Anger is one of the nation's top punters.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The revamped offensive staff and revised playbook will need time to take hold. The offense is dependent on a quarterback, Zach Maynard, who hasn't played at the Pac-12 level. Can Isi Sofele be a first-class tailback? The defensive line must generate pressure without Cameron Jordan.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Shane Vereen, OL Chris Guarnero, DL Derrick Hill, DE Cameron Jordan, LB Mike Mohamed, DB Chris Conte, DB Darian Hagan

OVERVIEW:
Nothing will be easy for Cal: The quarterback and tailback are unproven; the coaching staff has been revamped; the defense must replace its three best players. Plus, the Bears will be homeless, playing their home games at AT&T Park in San Francisco. Getting back to the postseason is no sure deal.

New Season Brings New Questions for Depleted Bears

Cal coach Jeff Tedford has experienced adversity at various points during his nine seasons in Berkeley — from the controversial Rose Bowl snub in 2004 to the season-ending collapse in 2007 to the road woes and bowl-less fall of '10.

But he has never faced a challenge like the one awaiting him in September.

With the shadow of last season's disappointment hanging over the program, the Bears enter 2011 with no proven quarterback, major questions at tailback, a revamped coaching staff and holes on every level of the defense. And they'll confront all these obstacles without the comforts of home.

Due to the renovation of ancient Memorial Stadium, Cal will practice on a campus rugby field and play its home games at AT&T Park in downtown San Francisco.

No home field and no proven quarterback is no way to challenge Stanford and Oregon for supremacy in the Pac-12 North. In fact, the Bears will be hard-pressed to finish ahead of Oregon State and Washington.

Yes, the lowered expectations create room for opportunity, but that's not in Cal's DNA. The Bears have never pulled an upside surprise under Tedford.

Not only is Tedford facing unprecedented challenges, he's also under unprecedented scrutiny. He's one of the league's highest-paid coaches but owns a 17-19 conference record over the past three years. He hasn't beaten USC since 2003 and hasn't produced an all-conference quarterback since 2004 (Aaron Rodgers).

That doesn't figure to change this season. The Bears selected Zach Maynard as their starter after training camp — and now they'll cross their fingers. The mobile lefthander, a transfer from Buffalo, hasn't played in nearly two years and won't have much time to settle in: three of the first five games are on the road.

Actually, when you think about it, ALL of the games are on the road.

OFFENSE

The Bears began spring practice with a five-man quarterback competition, ended April with Zach Maynard as the presumptive starter, and then announced him as No. 1 in May.

He wasn't the most efficient passer on a daily basis, but he was clearly Cal's best playmaker at the position. With his strong arm and mobility — the Bears have added the spread option to their playbook — he provides multiple options for moving the ball.

But it probably won't be smooth sailing: Maynard doesn't possess top-notch accuracy and must get comfortable working from the pocket.

If he falters, there are two options: Brock Mansion, who started four games last season after starter Kevin Riley was injured, and sophomore Allan Bridgford, who might be the best natural passer on the roster.

As if breaking in a new quarterback isn't challenging enough, the Bears also have a new tailback.

Isi Sofele slides into the position after rushing for just 338 yards last season as Shane Vereen's backup. Freshman Brendan Bigelow, a huge talent who's coming off a serious knee injury, will be given every chance to challenge the 5-7 Sofele for the starting job, as will freshman Daniel Lasco.

Receivers Marvin Jones and Keenan Allen, who combined for 96 receptions last season, have big-play talent but must improve their consistency — both in terms of route-running and catching the ball. Michael Calvin will provide the Bears with a capable third receiver, if he can stay healthy. Freshman Kaelin Clay was impressive in spring practice.

Anthony Miller, who averaged 11.7 yards per catch last season, is one of the most talented tight ends in the conference — capable of catching in traffic and making open-field plays.

The offensive line underachieved last season but should be much improved,

Mychal Kendricks
Photo by Ric Tapia/Icon SMI

GOLDEN BEARS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
58	Chris Adcock	OL	6-3	301	Fr.	Rowlett, TX
93	Ted Agu	DL	6-2	243	Fr.	Bakersfield
32	David Aknin	FB	6-0	225	Jr.	San Carlos
21	Keenan Allen	WR/RET/DB	6-3	202	So.	Greensboro, NC
19	Bryan Anger	P	6-4	203	Sr.	Camarillo
2	Marc Anthony	DB	6-0	195	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
45	Jed Barnett	PK/P	6-2	218	Fr.	Camas, WA
27	Mitchel Bartolo	TB	5-8	183	Fr.	San Diego
81	Ross Bostock	WR	6-2	197	Jr.	Sebastapol
28	Jackson Bouza	WR	6-0	192	So.	Lafayette
68	Mark Brazinski	OL	6-3	295	So.	Basking Ridge, NJ
16	Allan Bridgford	QB	6-3	208	So.	Mission Viejo
24	Trajuan Briggs	TB	5-11	229	Fr.	Pacoima
94	Scott Bueno	DL	6-6	230	Jr.	Livermore
11	Michael Calvin	WR	6-3	212	Sr.	San Lorenzo
7	D.J. Campbell	DB	6-0	201	Sr.	North Las Vegas, NV
43	Dan Camporeale	LB	6-3	243	So.	Lafayette
11	Sean Cattouse	DB	6-2	213	Sr.	Chicago, IL
61	Justin Cheadle	OL	6-3	287	Sr.	Bakersfield
57	Austin Clark	DL	5-11	270	So.	Tampa, FL
4	Kaelin Clay	WR	5-10	185	Fr.	Long Beach
91	Deandre Coleman	DL	6-6	319	So.	Seattle, WA
5	Michael Coley	DB	6-0	214	Fr.	Hyattsville, MD
78	Alejandro Crosthwaite	OL	6-3	290	Fr.	Rosarito Beach, Mexico
16	Vincenzo D'Amato	PK	6-1	201	Jr.	Lake Forest
22	Ryan Davis	LB	6-4	256	Sr.	Los Angeles
33	Covaughn DeBoskie-Johnson	TB	5-11	225	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
71	Sam DeMartinis	OL	6-5	301	Sr.	Sun Valley
29	Nico Dumont	FB	6-0	231	So.	Novato
2	Coleman Edmond	WR	6-1	203	Sr.	Kingston, NY
31	Tyré Ellison	DB	6-2	193	Jr.	San Francisco
34	Darren Ervin	TB	5-11	202	Fr.	Houston, TX
42	Steven Fanua	LB	6-1	221	So.	Milpitas
83	Anthony Ferrario	TE	6-2	190	So.	Saratoga
33	Nick Forbes	LB	6-1	227	So.	Frederick, MD
65	Dominic Galas	OL	6-1	285	Jr.	Modesto
52	Justin Gates	OL	6-3	280	Sr.	Reno, NV
70	Geoffrey Gibson	OL	6-4	339	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
92	Trevor Guyton	DL	6-3	289	Sr.	Woodinville, WA
87	Spencer Hagan	WR	6-4	199	So.	Sacramento
23	Josh Hill	DB	5-11	183	Jr.	Houston, TX
7	Austin Hinder	QB	6-4	191	Fr.	Steamboat Springs, CO
3	D.J. Holt	LB	6-1	252	Sr.	Santa Clarita
34	J.P. Hurrell	LB	6-0	217	Jr.	San Mateo
1	Marvin Jones	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	Fontana
22	Will Kapp	FB	5-10	224	Sr.	Los Gatos
56	Keni Kaufusi	DL	6-2	287	So.	Salt Lake City, UT
30	Mychal Kendricks	LB	6-0	241	Sr.	Fresno
99	Gabe King	DL	6-5	269	Fr.	Burlington, NC
10	Lucas King	LB	6-4	229	Fr.	Berkeley
51	Kameron Krebs	LB	6-1	232	Jr.	Sunset Beach, HI
88	Kaulin Krebs	WR	6-1	193	Jr.	Sunset Beach, HI
83	Cary Kriegsman	LS	5-11	189	Fr.	Pacific Palisades
45	Spencer Ladner	TE	6-7	258	Jr.	Kansas City, MO
20	Isaac Lapite	DB	5-10	183	Fr.	Eugene, OR
15	Adrian Lee	DB	6-0	196	Fr.	Dallas, TX
6	Alex Logan	DB	6-2	210	So.	Denver, CO
86	Brandon Madueno	LS	6-2	241	So.	West Covina
10	Brock Mansion	QB	6-5	234	Sr.	Dallas, TX
35	Mike Manuel	TB	5-10	195	Jr.	Carson
28	Matt Mayes	LB	6-0	204	Fr.	Alturas
15	Zach Maynard	QB	6-3	195	Jr.	Greensboro, NC
40	Chris McCain	LB	6-6	213	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
80	Anthony Miller	TE	6-3	262	Sr.	San Jose
8	C.J. Moncrease	DB	6-2	220	Sr.	Richmond
8	Terrance Montgomery	WR	5-11	189	Fr.	Los Angeles
37	Robert Mullins	LB	6-1	227	Jr.	Los Angeles
25	Dash Oliver	DB	5-10	176	Fr.	Castro Valley
95	Ernest Owusu	DL	6-4	267	Sr.	Nashville, TN
96	Kendrick Payne	DL	6-2	290	Jr.	Houston, TX
39	Clark Porter	LS/LB	6-3	228	Sr.	Pacific Palisades
77	Tyler Rigsbee	OL	6-4	284	Jr.	Chico
50	Matt Rios	LS	6-1	241	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
24	Vachel Samuels	DB	6-0	195	So.	Compton
72	Mitchell Schwartz	OL	6-5	325	Sr.	Pacific Palisades
57	Brian Schwenke	OL	6-2	311	Jr.	Oceanside
20	Isi Sofele	TB	5-7	188	Jr.	Salt Lake City, UT
19	Jarrett Sparks	TE	6-2	232	Jr.	Merced
48	Eric Stevens	FB	6-0	230	Jr.	San Pedro
75	Matt Summers-Gavin	OL	6-3	290	Jr.	San Francisco
9	Beau Sweeney	QB	6-2	221	Jr.	Fresno
40	Giorgio Tavecchio	PK	5-8	174	Sr.	Moraga
17	Quinn Tedford	WR	6-0	168	Jr.	Danville
50	Aaron Tipoti	DL	6-2	311	Jr.	Honolulu, HI
79	Bill Tyndall	OL	6-5	267	So.	Pacific Grove
31	John Tyndall	FB	6-3	231	Sr.	Pacific Grove
4	Avery Walls	DB	5-11	188	Fr.	McDonough, GA
84	Jacob Wark	TE	6-5	240	Fr.	Portland, OR
14	Ryan Wertenberger	QB	6-2	215	Jr.	Mission Viejo
14	Cecil Whiteside	LB	6-3	229	Fr.	Newport Beach
44	David Wilkerson	LB	6-3	234	Fr.	Danville
74	Matt Williams	OL	6-7	286	Jr.	Liverpool, England
1	Steve Williams	DB	5-10	183	So.	Dallas, TX
23	Dasarte Yarnway	TB	6-0	217	So.	San Francisco

NOTEBOOK

Frustrated and perhaps a bit desperate, **Jeff Tedford** reached back in time to shake up his coaching staff and ramp up his offense.

Tedford hired two former assistants: **Eric Kiesau**, who coached receivers back when the Bears consistently completed downfield passes, and **Jim Michalczik**, who oversaw some of the best offensive lines in school history.

Kiesau, who was at Colorado, will handle the receivers and is the passing game coordinator. Michalczik, who was with the Oakland Raiders, will oversee the line and serve as offensive coordinator. Tedford also hired **Marcus Arroyo**, a spread offense specialist from Wyoming, to help with the quarterbacks.

Tedford plans to become much more involved in coaching the quarterback and designing the game plan. The result is a talented offensive staff — running backs coach **Ron Gould** remains very much involved — but a seemingly convoluted organizational chart. Tedford must make sure responsibilities are defined and the process works efficiently.

• The long-awaited retrofit and renovation of Memorial Stadium is underway for an estimated $320 million. Combined with a high-performance training center being built adjacent to the stadium, the Bears will no longer be in the league's second tier when it comes to facilities.

But it will make for a difficult season, with the Bears practicing elsewhere on campus and playing their games at AT&T Park in San Francisco, which was selected over the Oakland Coliseum and Candlestick Park for its location, amenities and availability.

Cal has played in AT&T Park — in the 2008 Emerald Bowl (now the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl).

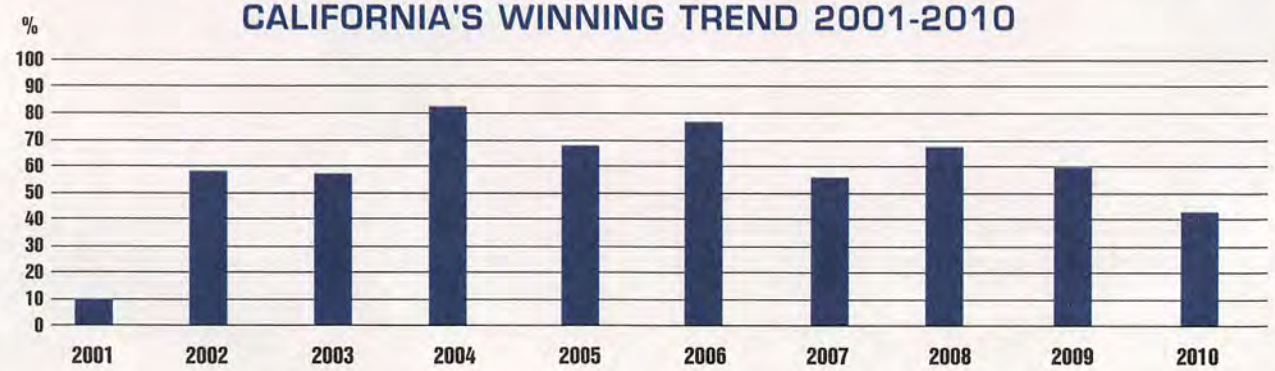
"The facility is one of the finest sports venues in the world," Tedford said.

• The facility improvements appeared to have a profound impact on Cal's recruiting. The Bears' 2011 class was ranked No. 17 nationally by Rivals.com.

The class includes the best group of defensive linemen in school history, led by Sacramento's **Viliami Moala**, the No. 8-ranked tackle in the country.

But the rookie who may have the greatest impact on Cal's season is running back **Brendon Bigelow**. He picked Cal over Oregon and USC, but has twice torn his ACL. If he makes a full recovery, Bigelow has the talent to be a Jahvid Best-level playmaker.

CALIFORNIA'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



in part because of the return of well-respected former assistant Jim Michalczik. He'll take over a veteran unit that returns three starters, including all-conference left tackle Mitchell Schwartz.

But there are questions in the interior, which holds the key to a consistent running game. Dominic Galas replaces steady center Chris Guarnero, while guards Justin Cheadle and Brian Schwenke must ramp up their play.

DEFENSE

The Bears played stout defense last season under first-year coordinator Clancy Pendergast, who installed a more aggressive system than what Cal had used in the past.

The results were impressive: The Bears allowed just 319.1 yards (No. 1 in the conference) and 22.6 points (No. 3). If the offense had held up its end of the bargain, Cal would have been bowl bound.

It won't be easy for Pendergast to repeat the success: The Bears lost their three top players — end Cameron Jordan, linebacker Mike Mohamed and safety Chris Conte — and they'll have problems with field position unless the offense is more effective than expected.

The secondary is largely set. Returning starter Marc Anthony and part-time starter Steve Williams will handle the cornerback spots; there's even a quality third option in the versatile Josh Hill, who played nickel back last year.

Sean Cattouse was limited by injuries in 2010. If healthy, he's one of the Pac-12's top safeties. Hill is expected to join Cattouse at safety, unless injuries require him to slide to cornerback. In that case, look for D.J. Campbell, who has starting experience, to step in at safety.

The Bears should be solid at linebacker, and possibly superb, if their talented underclassmen develop rapidly.

Veterans Mychal Kendricks (8.5 sacks last year) and D.J. Holt will start inside — as a run-stopping tandem, they are one of the league's best — with Ryan Davis and freshman Dave Wilkerson projected to man the outside spots. Davis is a former junior college star who has yet to blossom.

Rookies Cecil Whiteside, Nick Forbes and Chris McCain could all challenge for spots in the rotation.

There are questions at every position on the defensive line. Kendrick Payne is expected to take over in the middle. Trevor Guyton will try to replace Jordan, and Ernest Owusu (nine starts) returns at the other end. But watch out for two underclassmen — Gabe King and Deandre Coleman — who have big upsides.

In addition, the highly-ranked recruiting class is loaded with elite prospects like Viliami Moala, Todd Barr and Puka Lopa.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Bryan Anger, a two-time all-conference punter, broke the school record with a 45.6-yard average last season (No. 6 in the nation). His leg provides a field position

Marvin Jones
Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 158.9 ypg rushing (6th in Pac-10/52nd NCAA), 175.1 passing (9th/94th), 334.0 total offense (7th/90th), 25.8 ppg (6th/73rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Zach Maynard	Jr.	Must be resourceful and limit negative plays.	Brock Mansion, Sr.
RB	Isi Sofele	Jr.	Steps into role filled by Lynch, Best and Vereen.	Covaughn DeBoskie-Johnson, Jr.
FB	Eric Stevens	Jr.	Steady player who started five games last year.	John Tyndall, Sr.
WR	Marvin Jones*	Sr.	Led Cal in receiving each of past two seasons.	Michael Calvin, Sr.
WR	Keenan Allen*	So.	Huge upside, but must become more consistent.	Kaelin Clay, Fr.
TE	Anthony Miller*	Sr.	Underutilized talent has 40 career receptions.	Spencer Ladner, Jr.
LT	Mitchell Schwartz*	Sr.	Started all 38 games over past three years.	Bill Tyndall, So.
LG	Brian Schwenke*	Jr.	OL leader who started every game last season.	Alejandro Crosthwaite, Fr.
C	Dominic Galas	Jr.	Takes over key position from solid Chris Guarnero.	Mark Brazinski, So.
RG	Justin Cheadle*	Sr.	One of several veterans who must pick up his play.	Geoff Gibson, Fr.
RT	Matt Summers-Gavin	Jr.	Versatile player made four starts at left guard.	Ty Rigsbee, Jr.
K	Giorgio Tavecchio*	Sr.	Erratic throughout his career; 11-16 FGs last year.	Vince D'Amato, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 132.1 ypg rushing (5th in Pac-10/35th NCAA), 187.0 passing (1st/21st), 319.1 total defense (1st/18th), 22.6 ppg (3rd/40th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Ernest Owusu*	Sr.	Faces strong competition from gifted underclassmen.	Deandre Coleman, So.
NT	Kendrick Payne	Jr.	Uncle Harvey Williams played for Chiefs, Raiders.	Aaron Tipoti, Jr.
DE	Trevor Guyton	Sr.	Trying to replace departed star Cameron Jordan.	Gabe King, Fr.
LB	Ryan Davis	Sr.	Bears waiting for ex-JC star to become impact player.	Chris McCain, Fr.
LB	Mychal Kendricks*	Sr.	Fills Mike Mohamed's role as top playmaker.	Robert Mullins, Jr.
LB	D.J. Holt*	Sr.	Honorable mention all-league in 2010; 85 tackles.	Nick Forbes, So.
LB	David Wilkerson	Fr.	Flashed all-league talent during spring practice.	Cecil Whiteside, Fr.
CB	Marc Anthony*	Jr.	Team-high two INTs last year; broke up six passes.	Josh Hill, Jr.
CB	Steve Williams	So.	Only three starts, but potentially a lockdown CB.	Adrian Lee, Fr.
SS	Sean Cattouse*	Sr.	Honorable-mention all-league despite only six starts.	D.J. Campbell, Sr.
FS	Josh Hill*	Jr.	Versatile; can play cornerback or nickel back.	Alex Logan, So.
P	Bryan Anger*	Sr.	No worries here: He's a two-time all-conference pick.	Jed Barnett, Fr.

*Returning Starter

GOLDEN BEARS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
C.J. Anderson	RB	5-11	205	✪✪✪	Oakland, CA	Laney C.C.
Rushed for 1,644 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2010…Chose Cal over Memphis, Nevada, New Mexico State, San Jose State and Washington State.						
Todd Barr	DE	6-3	265	✪✪✪✪	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 16 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 12 strongside defensive end…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Bowl.						
Brendon Bigelow	RB	5-10	180	✪✪✪✪	Fresno, CA	Central East
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 19 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 11 running back…Rushed for 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior.						
Kyle Boehm	QB	6-3	205	✪✪✪	San Jose, CA	Archbishop Mitty
Rated as the No. 31 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 7 pro-style quarterback…Threw for 1,386 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior.						
Nathan Broussard	LB	6-4	240	✪✪✪	Plano, TX	Plano West
Recorded 60 tackles, two sacks and one pass breakup as a senior…Chose Cal over Kentucky, Stanford and Tulsa.						
Darren Ervin	RB	5-9	198	✪✪✪	Houston, TX	Lamar
Rushed for 700 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior…Rushed for 730 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior.						
Jason Gibson	LB/DE	6-3	212	✪✪✪✪	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 17 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 9 outside linebacker…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Maurice Harris	WR	6-2	194	✪✪✪	Greensboro, NC	Northern Guilford
Rated as the No. 15 prospect in North Carolina by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 52 wide receiver…Caught 47 passes for 1,210 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior.						
Kameron Jackson	DB	5-9	158	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 54 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 44 cornerback…Had 45 tackles and five interceptions as a senior.						
Mustafa Jalil	DT	6-4	300	✪✪✪✪	San Diego, CA	Cathedral Catholic
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 25 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 18 defensive tackle…Chose Cal over Arizona State, San Diego State, USC and Washington.						
Jalen Jefferson	ATH	6-3	200	✪✪✪	Ventura, CA	St. Bonaventure
Rated as the No. 53 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 41 athlete…Recorded 70 tackles, six sacks and one interception as a junior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Daniel Lasco	RB	6-1	190	✪✪✪	The Woodlands, TX	The Woodlands
Rated as the No. 44 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 25 running back…Rushed for 1,520 yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior.						
Puka Lopa	DE	6-3	255	✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Grant
Rated as the No. 46 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 34 strongside defensive end…Recorded 128 tackles and 21 sacks as a senior.						
Stefan McClure	DB	5-11	170	✪✪✪✪	Vista, CA	Vista
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 12 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 9 cornerback…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Viliami Moala	DT	6-2	326	✪✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Grant
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 11 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 8 defensive tackle…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Jordan Morgan	DB	6-0	193	✪✪✪	Lakeside, AZ	Blue Ridge
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 56 safety…Recorded 47 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions as a senior.						
Jordan Rigsbee	OL	6-4	275	✪✪✪✪	Chico, CA	Pleasant Valley
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 20 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 9 offensive guard…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Richard Rodgers	TE	6-4	230	✪✪✪	Shrewsbury, MA	St. John's
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Massachusetts by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 24 tight end…Caught 65 passes for 1,064 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior.						
Brennan Scarlett	DE	6-5	255	✪✪✪✪	Portland, OR	Central Catholic
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Oregon…Rated as the nation's No. 9 strongside defensive end…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Avery Walls	DB	5-11	184	✪✪✪✪	McDonough, GA	Eagle's Landing Christian
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Georgia…Rated as the nation's No. 11 safety…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Matt Williams	OL	6-7	285	✪✪✪✪	Wahpeton, ND	North Dakota State College of Science
Rated as the nation's No. 13 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose Cal over Florida State, Illinois, Michigan State and others.						
Joel Willis	ATH	5-10	180	✪✪✪	Garden Grove, CA	Pacifica
Rated as the No. 75 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 53 athlete…Had 90 tackles on defense, while racking up more than 1,200 yards of offense as a senior.						

A LOOK AT THE GOLDEN BEARS

RESULTS

5-7, 3-6

W	UC DAVIS	52-3
W	COLORADO	52-7
L	at Nevada	31-52
L	at Arizona	9-10
W	UCLA	35-7
L	at USC	14-48
W	ARIZONA STATE	50-17
L	at Oregon State	7-35
W	at Washington State	20-13
L	OREGON	13-15
L	STANFORD	14-48
L	WASHINGTON	13-16

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
K. Riley	8	111	185	6	60.0	1409	13
B. Mansion	8	67	137	5	48.9	646	2

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. Vereen	12	231	1167	5.1	13	59	97.2
I. Sofele	12	69	338	4.9	0	24	28.2
K. Allen	11	18	136	7.6	1	45	12.4

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Jones	12	50	765	15.3	4	62	63.8
K. Allen	11	46	490	10.7	5	48	44.5
S. Vereen	12	22	209	9.5	3	31	17.4

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: M. Mohamed 95, D.J. Holt 85, C. Conte 72
Tackles for loss: M. Kendricks 15, C. Jordan 12.5, T. Guyton 8.5
Sacks: M. Kendricks 8.5, C. Jordan 5.5, T. Guyton 4.5
Interceptions: M. Anthony 2, seven tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	vs. Fresno State (San Francisco)	8-5
Sept. 10	at Colorado	5-7
Sept. 17	PRESBYTERIAN	2-9
Sept. 24	at Washington	7-6
Oct. 6	at Oregon	12-1
Oct. 13	USC	8-5
Oct. 22	UTAH	10-3
Oct. 29	at UCLA	4-8
Nov. 5	WASHINGTON STATE	2-10
Nov. 12	OREGON STATE	5-7
Nov. 19	at Stanford	12-1
Nov. 25	at Arizona State	6-6

PLAYER PROFILE

Sean Cattouse
Photo by Kyle Terada-US PRESSWIRE

Bears' Cattouse at Home in Berkeley

It did not take long for Cal safety Sean Cattouse, born in Chicago and raised on the South Side, to adjust to life in Berkeley. "I loved the whole California feeling," he said. "In a couple weeks, I was wearing Vans and polo shirts."

Four years later, Cattouse is a leader of Cal's defense, one of the top defensive backs in the Pac-12 and a well-regarded NFL Draft prospect. He's also a few units short of graduating with a degree in social welfare.

In other words, his gamble — the decision to attend college 2,000 miles from home, to shun scholarship offers from Big Ten schools in favor of life in "Bezerkley" — has paid off.

Cattouse attended Hubbard High in Chicago, which typically churns out a half-dozen major college prospects per year. Very few venture outside the Midwest and even fewer go all the way to the left coast. But after the Bears spotted Cattouse at a summer clinic, reviewed videotape and offered him a scholarship, he accepted without hesitation.

When Cattouse signed a letter of intent in February 2007 — he had offers from Northwestern and Minnesota in hand — he became the first prospect from Illinois ever to sign with Cal coach Jeff Tedford.

"I've always been a little bit of a free spirit," Cattouse said. "It's a different environment. But there's something about California that just got me."

Cattouse arrived as a cornerback but switched to safety. He played in 11 games as a redshirt freshman; he earned honorable-mention all-league honors as a sophomore.

A broken thumb forced Cattouse to miss most of spring practice in 2010, and the timing couldn't have been worse. Cal was introducing a new defensive coordinator, Clancy Pendergast, and a new defensive playbook.

It took Cattouse six games to break into the starting lineup, but he made up for lost time quickly — finishing with 59 tackles, seven pass break-ups and once again earning honorable-mention all-league honors.

Now a senior, Cattouse is poised to become the leader of Cal's secondary and one of the top defensive playmakers in the Pac-12.

When his football career comes to a close, he plans to become a public school teacher.

"I like to address the toughest of problems," he said with a laugh.

Back on the South Side?

"Chicago or Oakland," he said. "Chicago runs through my bones, no doubt about that. But I've been hugely affected by the Bay Area."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

LB Mychal Kendricks

Fourth-year senior is integral piece of a defense that must carry the Bears while the revamped offense finds its footing. ... Was a second-team all-conference pick last season after recording 8.5 sacks (No. 2 in Pac-10) and 15 tackles for loss. ... Also tied for league lead with three fumble recoveries. ... Physical presence at 241 pounds, but has the speed to make plays on the perimeter. ... His father, Marvin, played running back for UCLA.

EMERGING STAR

WR Keenan Allen

Former five-star recruit from Greensboro, N.C., is one of the most physically gifted players in the conference. ... The 6-3 sophomore will start at receiver, return punts and kicks, and can play safety if needed. ... Was named Freshman All-American last year by several publications. ... Led the team with five touchdown catches and broke DeSean Jackson's school record for catches by a true freshman with 46. ... Was second on the team (behind Shane Vereen) with 1,040 all-purpose yards.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Zach Maynard

The transfer from Buffalo hasn't played since the 2009 season, but he won the quarterback job in the spring, as Cal made a formal announcement in May. ... He will operate an offense that mixes a pro-style passing game and elements of the spread option. ... Maynard, a lefthander with excellent mobility, gives the Bears multiple options for moving the ball, something the offense desperately needs. ... Half brother of Cal receiver Keenan Allen.

boost when the offense goes three-and-out — a frequent occurrence in recent years.

Senior placekicker Giorgio Tavecchio made just one of three field goal attempts last season from 30 to 39 yards and must become more consistent, or else he will face a challenge from junior Vince D'Amato, who shared the duties two years ago. The Bears will have enough trouble scoring touchdowns — they can't afford to leave three points on the field.

Keenan Allen provides Cal with a big-play threat returning kicks. But the Bears must find a replacement for Jeremy Ross, who averaged 12.7 yards per punt return last season.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Bears have one of the most unusual, if not toughest, schedules in the country.

The first oddity is that their home games will be played away from home, at AT&T Park in San Francisco. The second unusual aspect of the 2011 lineup is that the Sept. 10 trip to Colorado counts as a non-conference game, even though the Buffaloes have joined the Pac-12.

Then there's the not-insignificant challenge of playing Oregon and USC on back-to-back Thursdays in early October, which doesn't give rookie quarterback Zach Maynard much time to settle in.

The middle portion is manageable, but the schedule toughens down the stretch: Cal visits Pac-12 North favorite Stanford the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and then Pac-12 South favorite Arizona State the day after Thanksgiving.

— Jon Wilner

COLORADO BUFFALOES

For more coverage of the Buffaloes, visit colorado.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Eric Bieniemy | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Brown** | **STADIUM: Folsum Field: 53,750**

AT A GLANCE

2010:
5-7, 2-6 Big 12 (5th, North)

COACH:
Jon Embree – At Colorado and overall: 1st year

RETURNING STARTERS:
15; 8 offense, 6 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Tyler Hansen, RB Rodney Stewart,
WR Paul Richardson, WR Toney Clemons,
TE Ryan Deehan, LB Jon Major,
DE Chidera Uzo-Diribe, S Anthony Perkins

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
There is a lot of experience returning among the starters and a few key backups. Hansen, a playmaker at QB, is surrounded by plenty of capable teammates, including Stewart, who has a chance to become the program's all-time leading rusher.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
A roster primarily built to play one style of football will be asked to tackle a more physical style, with an emphasis on a strong running game and stopping the run. There are plenty of chances for true freshmen to play, coaches have suggested, and a rash of injuries could make this team young in a hurry.

KEY LOSSES:
WR Scotty McKnight, OL Nate Solder,
DE Marquez Herrod, LB B.J. Beatty,
CB Jimmy Smith, CB Jalil Brown

OVERVIEW:
Colorado has 27 seniors, including Hansen, who has logged significant playing time at quarterback in the past three seasons. Depth and team speed are concerns, and the Buffs will play one of the toughest schedules in the nation over 13 consecutive weeks without a bye. A bowl game would be a step forward in the first year under new coaches.

Embree Returns Home to Help Buffs Jump to Pac-12

Former coach Dan Hawkins was viewed as an outsider by many, so after five consecutive losing seasons, Colorado officials put the program back in the hands of a man who was raised in it.

Few care more about black, silver and gold than new Buffs coach Jon Embree, who played tight end in Boulder in the 1980s under legendary coach Bill McCartney. He served as a Colorado assistant for 11 years until moving on to UCLA in 2003 and later to the NFL.

Embree has school pride but no head-coaching experience. What he does have is a determined, no-nonsense approach. The Buffs will play a more physical brand of football, reminiscent of the Gary Barnett era, although it's uncertain if Embree has the personnel to immediately pull it off.

The cupboard isn't bare as the Buffs make the switch from the western-most school in the Big 12 to the eastern-most school in the Pac-12. There are 27 seniors on the roster, including a quarterback (Tyler Hansen) who logged significant playing time in each of the past three seasons and an all-conference-caliber senior tailback (Rodney Stewart).

A wealth of experience returns in the trenches on both sides of the ball, but the roster lacks appropriate depth, and team speed is an issue — especially with the Buffs moving into a conference known for it.

Embree assembled a strong coaching staff that includes seven assistants who have stomped the sidelines of the Pac-10 and six with NFL experience. Defensive coordinator Greg Brown, defensive line coach Mike Tuiasosopo (both at Arizona) and offensive line coach Steve Marshall (Cal) coached in the Pac-10 last season.

OFFENSE

The Buffs are moving to the Pac-12 and moving toward a pro-style, West Coast offense influenced by the time Embree and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy spent in Boulder as assistants under Gary Barnett.

The offense will also incorporate elements of what the Washington Redskins ran last year when Embree served as tight ends coach there, and what the Minnesota Vikings did with Bieniemy as assistant head coach.

Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen was named the starter at the end of spring ball. He was the starter in the first seven games last year before suffering a ruptured spleen. The new offensive system will emphasize a bullish running game, but Hansen seems to have adapted well to the quick passes and timing of the system.

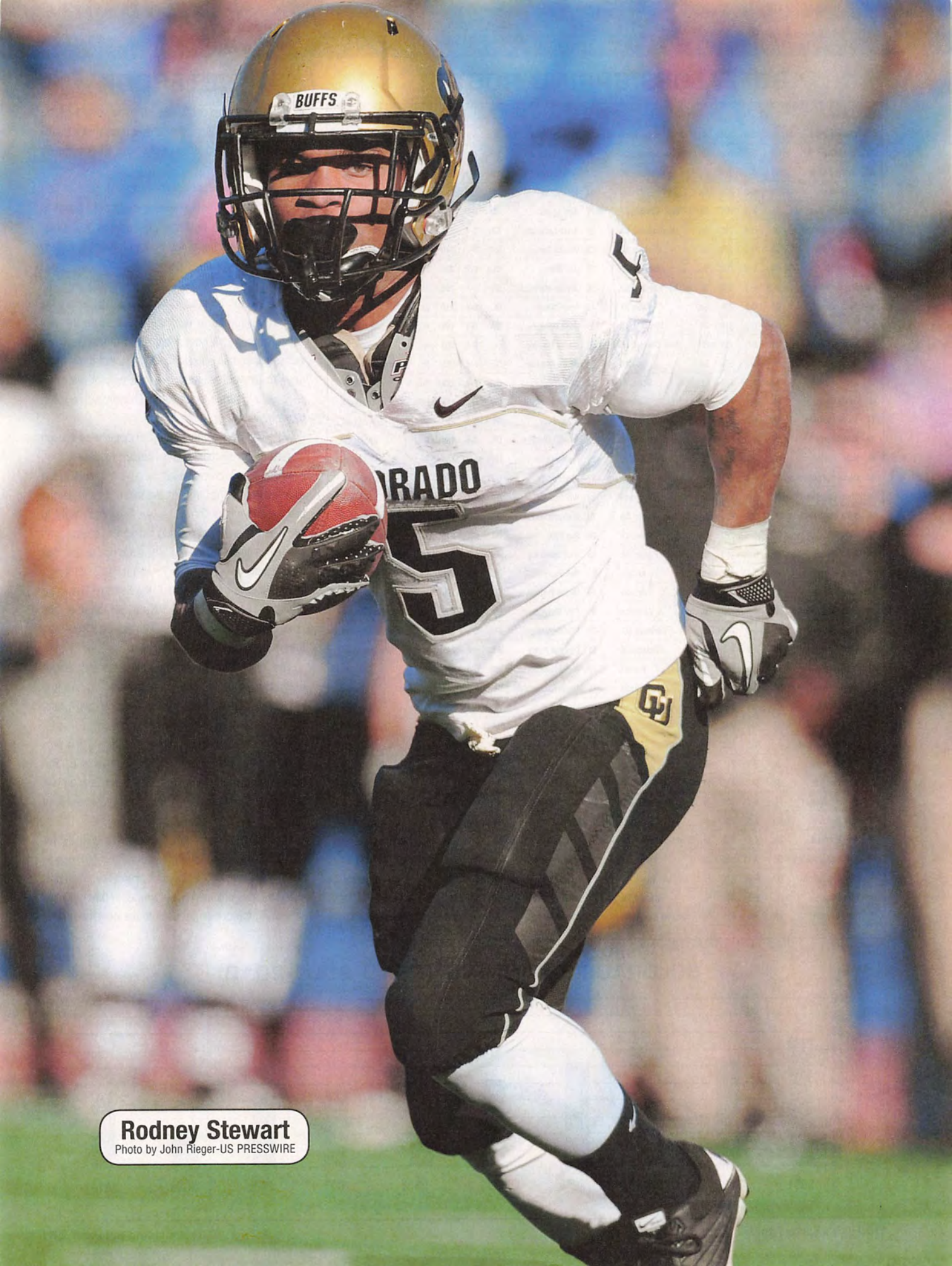
Rodney Stewart was the third-leading rusher in the Big 12 as a junior. He would become the school's all-time leading rusher with another similar performance (1,318 yards rushing, 290 yards receiving), surpassing Bieniemy, who finished third in the 1990 Heisman Trophy balloting.

Paul Richardson and Toney Clemons could be a dynamic combination at wide receiver, and the program added senior Georgia transfer Logan Gray for depth. Tight ends Ryan Deehan and DaVaughn Thornton will get plenty of opportunities. Thornton has big-time potential as a pass-catcher, but he needs to work on being a more physical blocker.

The line could have four returning starters if center Mike Iltis recovers from a torn ACL on time. Several backups also have logged a lot of playing time, and that experience up front should be a valuable asset, especially early in the season.

DEFENSE

Plenty of familiar faces return, and the Buffs will rely on that cohesion and experience as they take steps to improve. Players are also familiar with the aggressive style of first-year defensive coordinator Greg Brown, who was the secondary coach in Boulder from 2006 to 2009



Rodney Stewart
Photo by John Rieger-US PRESSWIRE

BUFFALOES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
63	Ethan Adkins	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	Castle Rock
47	Tyler Ahles	FB	6-2	240	Sr.	San Bernardino, CA
33	Cordary Allen	TB	6-1	225	Fr.	Phenix City, AL
41	Matt Allen	FB	6-0	235	So.	Littleton
43	Matthew Bahr	TE	6-4	265	Sr.	Dove Canyon, CA
59	David Bakhtiari	OL	6-4	295	So.	Burlingame, CA
66	Blake Behrens	OL	6-3	300	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
28	Jered Bell	DB	6-0	190	So.	Ontario, CA
35	David Blaha	OLB	6-3	230	Fr.	Colorado Springs
94	Nate Bonsu	DT	6-1	285	So.	Allen, TX
10	Brent Burnette	QB	6-3	210	Jr.	Maryvile, TN
31	Keenan Canty	WR	5-9	155	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
40	Justin Castor	PK	6-3	200	So.	Golden
35	Kyle Cefalo	WR	5-10	170	Sr.	Boise, ID
60	David Clark	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	Aspen
17	Toney Clemons	WR	6-2	205	Sr.	New Kensington, PA
89	Mario Conte	WR	5-10	175	Jr.	Lakewood
54	Kaiwi Crabb	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
50	Curtis Cunningham	DT	6-1	285	Sr.	Littleton
68	Shawn Daniels	OL	6-3	280	Jr.	Evergreen
53	Ryan Dannewitz	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	San Jacinto, CA
82	Jarrod Darden	WR	6-4	210	So.	Keller, TX
34	Ryan Deehan	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	Poway, CA
89	Drew Ebner	WR	5-11	200	Fr.	Arvada
83	Dustin Ebner	WR	6-1	180	Jr.	Arvada
15	Jason Espinoza	WR	5-8	180	Sr.	Alamosa
27	Vince Ewing	DB	6-0	210	Jr.	Carlsbad, CA
61	Scott Fernandez	TE	6-3	255	So.	Broomfield
42	Josh Ford	TB	5-9	195	So.	Denver
77	Bryce Givens	OL	6-6	275	Jr.	Castle Rock
62	David Goldberg	DL	6-1	245	Sr.	Aspen
14	Justin Gorman	DB	6-0	195	Fr.	Manheim, PA
15	Zach Grossnickle	P	6-2	190	So.	Denver
76	Gus Handler	OL	6-3	270	So.	Barrington, IL
9	Tyler Hansen	QB	6-1	215	Sr.	Marrieta, CA
49	Evan Harrington	FB	5-11	220	Sr.	Washington, DC
75	Jack Harris	OL	6-5	290	So.	Parker
17	Josh Hartigan	DE	6-1	220	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, FL
18	Jonathan Hawkins	DB	5-11	195	Sr.	Perris, CA
8	Nick Hirschman	QB	6-3	225	Fr.	Los Gatos, CA
64	Mike Iltis	OL	6-3	285	Sr.	Sarasota, FL
69	Ryan Iverson	SN	6-0	205	So.	Newport Beach, CA
22	Arthur Jaffee	DB	5-11	210	Sr.	Boulder
26	Tony Jones	TB	5-7	185	Fr.	Paterson, NJ
27	Trea' Jones	TB	5-10	205	Fr.	Wake Forest, NC
44	Nick Kasa	DE	6-6	275	Jr.	Thornton
71	Alex Lewis	OL	6-6	270	Fr.	Tempe, AZ
20	Brian Lockridge	TB	5-7	180	Sr.	Trabuco Canyon, CA
12	Patrick Mahnke	ILB	6-1	210	Sr.	Parker
31	Jon Major	OLB	6-2	230	Jr.	Parker
36	Jordan Marquez	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	Arvada
73	Ryan Miller	OL	6-8	310	Sr.	Littleton
39	Josh Moten	DB	6-0	195	Fr.	Carson, CA
52	Daniel Munyer	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Tarzana, CA
58	Andre Nichols	DE	6-4	215	Fr.	Colorado Springs
48	Liloa Nobriga	OLB	6-2	225	So.	Summerlin, NV
90	Darragh O'Neill	PK	6-2	175	Fr.	Louisville
93	Conrad Obi	DT	6-3	295	Sr.	Grayson, GA
25	Ayodeji Olatoye	DB	6-1	180	So.	Dublin, OH
13	Parker Orms	DB	5-11	180	So.	Wheat Ridge
57	Alec Parker	OLB	6-0	210	Fr.	Westminster
83	Will Pericak	DT	6-4	285	Jr.	Boulder
7	Anthony Perkins	DB	5-10	200	Sr.	Northglenn
26	Ray Polk	DB	6-1	215	Jr.	Scottsdale, AZ
95	Tony Poremba	DE	6-1	230	Sr.	Greenwood Village
91	Kirk Poston	DL	6-1	260	Fr.	Houston, TX
16	Makiri Pugh	DB	5-11	190	Jr.	Charlotte, NC
6	Paul Richardson	WR	6-1	165	So.	Gardena, CA
70	Eric Richter	DL	6-3	310	Jr.	Mission Viejo, CA
51	Douglas Rippy	ILB	6-2	245	Jr.	Columbus, OH
22	Parke Robbins	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	Edwards
19	Travis Sandersfeld	DB	6-0	205	Sr.	Limon
88	Kyle Slavin	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Littleton
41	Terrel Smith	DB	5-8	180	So.	Paterson, NJ
5	Rodney Stewart	TB	5-6	175	Sr.	Westerville, OH
79	Sione Tau	OL	6-5	350	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
85	DaVaughn Thornton	TE	6-4	225	So.	Denver
86	Alex Turbow	WR	6-1	195	So.	San Luis Obispo, CA
9	Chidera Uzo-Diribe	DE	6-3	240	So.	Corona, CA
32	Paul Vigo	DB	6-1	185	So.	New Brunswick, NJ
56	Derrick Webb	ILB	6-0	220	So.	Memphis, TN
23	Connor Wilhelm	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
45	Lowell Williams	ILB	6-1	200	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
84	Alex Wood	TE	6-2	255	So.	Steamboat Springs

NOTEBOOK

New Colorado coach **Jon Embree** vowed at the conclusion of spring practices that every member of his recruiting class would have an opportunity to play this fall.

Of course that's not going to happen, but don't be surprised if the Buffs are among the Pac-12 teams to use the most true freshmen this season. A double-digit count is not out of the realm of possibility, even with a roster featuring 27 seniors.

Why?

Embree isn't impressed with the depth he inherited and would like to work his players into the mix sooner rather than later. Most of those players likely will see action on special teams first, but if the Buffs get into blowout situations — one way or the other — look for Embree to substitute liberally with a youth movement.

• Perhaps the biggest thing in Boulder this season is keeping quarterback **Tyler Hansen** healthy.

Hansen is known for his scrambling ability, but coaches are asking him to make his reads and get the ball out on time, or throw it away. They don't want to see the Hansen of old running for his life, buying time and occasionally taking big hits, such as the one that ruptured his spleen against Texas Tech last October.

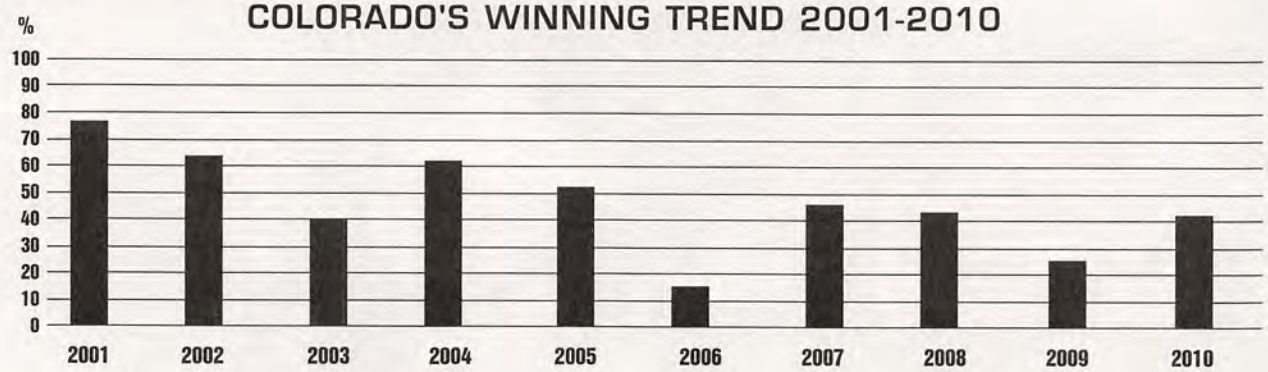
If Hansen is injured this fall, the Buffs will have big problems because backup **Nick Hirschman** has never taken a college snap. Ditto for true freshman **Stevie Dorman** of Somerset, Texas.

The one hope might be junior transfer **Brent Burnette**, who played quarterback at Middle Tennessee and Western Arizona the past two years. But Burnette struggled badly in the spring.

• One of the biggest problems hindering the program over the past two seasons has been penalties. The Buffs cut down the number of flags in the second half of 2010, but they have been one of the more penalized teams in the nation over the past two seasons.

CU ranked 85th in penalties last fall with 79 for 603 yards. In 2009, the Buffs committed 107 penalties for 907 yards. Getting that trend under control would be a significant boost for a team that needs to play smart football to get back to the postseason.

COLORADO'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



before spending a year at Arizona as co-defensive coordinator.

Finding two cornerbacks to replace first-round pick Jimmy Smith and fourth-rounder Jalil Brown proved difficult in spring ball. The jobs will be up for grabs in August. Filling those roles will be crucial as the Buffs try to stop the innovative passing games in their new league.

Brown is known for using aggressive coverages, often requiring cornerbacks to make plays one-on-one.

"It's just old Brownie," linebacker Jon Major said. "He's been here. He's aggressive. We've got to stop the run, so we can have some fun and really get after the offense."

Three frontrunners at cornerback are sophomores: Parker Orms, Ayodeji Olatoye and Jered Bell.

Orms suffered a torn ACL in the 2010 season opener against Colorado State. If he doesn't earn one of the starting corner spots, he is nearly a lock to be the nickel back. Olatoye and Bell played sparingly in 2010, but both are at least six-feet tall with long arms in the mold of their predecessors.

Colorado will heavily rely on safeties Anthony Perkins and Ray Polk. Perkins, also coming off a torn ACL, wasn't able to participate in spring ball, but he looked like a coach at times with the way he was instructing teammates. Coaches feel confident in his ability to get teammates in the right spots.

The linebackers, led by juniors Jon Major and Doug Rippy, bring stability to the unit. Both have played all three positions in the 4-3 scheme, giving the team plenty of versatility if injuries to others become a factor. Major has played a lot of ball in the past two years but has struggled to stay healthy.

Fellow linebackers Derrick Webb, Liloa Nobriga and Patrick Mahnke have experience and will have opportunities to make plays.

The Buffs also have a strong rotation of seven or eight defensive linemen, including end Josh Hartigan, who led the Buffs with 7.0 sacks in 2010.

Defensive tackle Conrad Obi, a senior who has logged little playing time, was singled out as the most improved Buff of spring practices. If he continues to emerge, it would give coaches a solid group of five or six players to rotate with Hartigan in the middle and sophomore Chidera Uzo-Diribe at the ends. Uzo-Diribe could be a future all-conference level player.

Tackles Will Pericak, a junior, and Curtis Cunningham, a senior, have each played nearly 1,200 snaps in the past two years.

SPECIAL TEAMS

With the exception of the kickoff return team, all aspects of the kicking game have been a sore spot in recent years. Embree's plan for a quick turnaround is using more starters on special teams, while hoping they don't get injured.

Tyler Hansen
Photo by Dustin Bradford/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 137.0 ypg rushing (11th in Big 12/85th NCAA), 222.7 passing (8th/59th), 359.7 total offense (10th/79th), 24.2 ppg (9th/84th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Tyler Hansen*	Sr.	Career: 275 of 460 for 2,822 yards, 15 TDs, 17 INTs.	Nick Hirschman, Fr.
RB	Rodney Stewart*	Sr.	Within reach of career rushing record in Boulder.	Tony Jones, Fr.
FB	Evan Harrington	Sr.	Both are converted LBs who will see playing time.	Tyler Ahles, Sr.
WR	Toney Clemons*	Sr.	Needs to further show his big-play capability.	Logan Gray, Sr.
WR	Paul Richardson	So.	He will have opponents' attention each week.	Keenan Canty, Fr.
TE	Ryan Deehan*	Sr.	Should thrive in new West Coast system.	DaVaughn Thornton, So.
LT	David Bakhtiari*	So.	Trying to fill big shoes left by Nate Solder.	Alex Lewis, Fr.
LG	Ethan Adkins*	Sr.	Two-year starter who must limit mental errors.	Kaiwi Crabb, Fr.
C	Mike Iltis*	Sr.	Returning from ACL tear in 2010 season finale.	Shawn Daniels, Jr.
RG	Ryan Miller*	Sr.	Four-year starter who should be a draft pick.	Ryan Dannewitz, Jr.
RT	Jack Harris	So.	Good-looking prospect ready to make college debut.	Sione Tau, Sr.
K	Justin Castor	So.	Will be pushed for starting job in August.	Will Oliver, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 143.3 ypg rushing (4th in Big 12/38th NCAA), 259.8 passing (9th/110th), 403.0 total defense (6th/83rd), 30.8 ppg (10th/91st)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Josh Hartigan*	Sr.	Undersized former LB led team in sacks in 2010.	Nick Kasa, Jr.
DT	Will Pericak*	Jr.	Solid, but needs to be more disruptive to offenses.	Curtis Cunningham, Sr.*
NT	Conrad Obi	Sr.	Looked in spring to be primed for breakout season.	Nate Bonsu, So.
DE	Chidera Uzo-Diribe	So.	Most physically gifted defensive lineman on roster.	Juda Parker, Fr.
LB	Liloa Nobriga	So.	Can be a tackling machine when focused.	Woodson Greer, Fr.
LB	Doug Rippy	Jr.	Ready to emerge after multiple position changes.	Derrick Webb, So.
LB	Jon Major*	Jr.	All-conference potential, but must stay healthy.	Patrick Mahnke, Sr.
CB	Jonathan Hawkins	Sr.	Career backup with much still to prove.	Jered Bell, So.
CB	Parker Orms	So.	Favorite to win the job because of consistency.	Ayodeji Olatoye, So.
SS	Anthony Perkins	Sr.	A coach on the field who is coming off torn ACL.	Travis Sandersfeld, Sr.
FS	Ray Polk*	Jr.	Teammates need him to start making more big plays.	Terrel Smith, So.*
P	Zach Grossnickle*	So.	Has struggled with consistency thus far.	Mark Brundage, Sr.

*Returning Starter

BUFFALOES RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Paulay Asiata	OL	6-5	285	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	St. Louis
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Colorado over Arizona, Hawaii, Oregon State, UCLA and Washington.						
Brent Burnette	QB	6-3	210	✪✪✪	Yuma, AZ	Arizona Western C.C.
Completed 79 of 140 passes for 1,219 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2010…Began his career at Middle Tennessee State…Enrolled at Colorado in January.						
Jermane Clark	ATH	6-2	198	✪✪	Oak Ridge, NC	Oak Ridge Military Academy
Totaled 1,243 all-purpose yards and 13 touchdowns on offense and racked up 110 tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 12 sacks to go with eight forced fumbles on defense as a junior.						
Malcolm Creer	RB	5-11	200	✪✪✪	Pacific Palisades, CA	Palisades
Rushed for 1,270 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Colorado over Eastern Washington, Idaho State, South Dakota and Washington.						
Brady Daigh	LB	6-2	220	✪✪✪	Denver, CO	Mullen
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 35 inside linebacker…Had 127 tackles as a junior.						
Stevie Dorman	QB	6-4	215	✪✪✪	Somerset, TX	Somerset
Passed for 3,291 yards and 40 touchdowns as a senior…Had 2,827 passing yards with 28 touchdowns as a junior and 2,507 passing yards with 24 TDs as a sophomore.						
Woodson Greer	LB	6-2	225	✪✪✪	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Rated as the No. 99 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Colorado over Arizona State, Michigan and San Jose State.						
Rashad Hall	RB	6-0	195	✪✪	Oak Ridge, NC	Oak Ridge Military Academy
Rushed for 1,433 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior…Chose Colorado over Cal, Nevada and Washington State.						
Will Harlos	DB	6-4	200	✪✪	Somerset, TX	Somerset
Recorded 110 tackles and four interceptions as a junior…Chose Colorado over Arkansas, SMU and Wake Forest.						
Sherrard Harrington	DB	6-1	168	✪✪✪	Washington, DC	H. D. Woodson
Had 55 tackles, five tackles for loss and two sacks as a senior…Chose Colorado over Duke, Iowa, Marshall, Ohio and Tulsa.						
Gregory Henderson	DB	5-10	180	✪✪	Norco, CA	Norco
Had 65 tackles, 13 pass breakups and seven interceptions as a senior…Chose Colorado over Air Force and New Mexico.						
Alex Kelley	OL	6-3	295	✪✪✪	Vista, CA	Vista
Two-time first-team all-league selection…Helped clear the way for an offense that averaged 416.8 yards and 34.2 points per game in 2010.						
Tyler McCulloch	WR	6-5	200	✪✪	Albuquerque, NM	Eldorado
Late addition to the class…Caught 52 passes for 720 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior.						
Marc Mustoe	OL	6-7	273	✪✪✪	Arvada, CO	Arvada West
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 51 offensive tackle.						
Stephane Nembot	DE	6-7	270	✪✪✪	Van Nuys, CA	Montclair Prep
Rated as the No. 80 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 51 strongside defensive end…Had 61 tackles and 11 sacks as a senior.						
Will Oliver	K	5-10	190	✪✪	North Hollywood, CA	Harvard Westlake
Earned first-team all-area and all-league honors… Connected on 18 of 23 field goals and 50 of 50 PAT kicks during his career.						
Juda Parker	DE	6-2	245	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	St. Louis
Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 28 weakside defensive end…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Nelson Spruce	WR	6-2	190	✪✪✪	Westlake Village, CA	Westlake
Caught 73 passes for 1,292 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior… Had 65 receptions for 1,325 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior.						
K.T. Tuumalo	LB	6-3	210	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	Punahou
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com… Recorded 97 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and 12 sacks as a senior.						
Kyle Washington	ATH	6-1	190	✪✪	Florence, AZ	Florence
Earned all-state honors as a wide receiver, defensive back and kick returner…Racked up more than 3,000 yards of offense and scored 43 touchdowns during his career.						

A LOOK AT THE BUFFALOES

RESULTS

5-7, 2-6

W	at Colorado State	24-3
L	at California	7-52
W	HAWAII	31-13
W	GEORGIA	29-27
L	at Missouri	0-26
L	BAYLOR	25-31
L	TEXAS TECH	24-27
L	at Oklahoma	10-43
L	at Kansas	45-52
W	IOWA STATE	34-14
W	KANSAS STATE	44-36
L	at Nebraska	17-45

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
C. Hawkins	12	124	231	5	53.7	1,547	14
T. Hansen	7	112	164	6	68.3	1,102	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Stewart	12	290	1,318	4.5	10	65	109.8
B. Lockridge	5	35	146	4.2	1	19	29.2
W. Jefferson	12	23	137	6.0	0	45	11.4

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. McKnight	12	50	621	12.4	7	49	51.8
T. Clemons	12	43	482	11.2	3	73	40.2
P. Richardson	12	34	514	15.1	6	62	42.8

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: M. Sipili 94, R. Polk 72, J. Smith 70
Tackles for loss: M. Sipili 10.5, B.J. Beatty 9, F. West 8.5
Sacks: J. Hartigan 7.5, F. West 5.5, Beatty 5
Interceptions: J. Brown 3, T. Sandersfeld 2, five tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	at Hawaii	10-4
Sept. 10	CALIFORNIA	5-7
Sept. 17	vs. Colorado State (Denver)	3-9
Sept. 24	at Ohio State	12-1
Oct. 1	WASHINGTON STATE	2-10
Oct. 8	at Stanford	12-1
Oct. 15	at Washington	7-6
Oct. 22	OREGON	12-1
Oct. 29	at Arizona State	6-6
Nov. 4	USC	8-5
Nov. 12	ARIZONA	7-6
Nov. 19	at UCLA	4-8
Nov. 25	at Utah	10-3

PLAYER PROFILE

Jon Major
Photo by Ron Chenoy-US PRESSWIRE

A Major Reason To Like Buffs 'D'

Colorado defensive coordinator Greg Brown calls linebacker Jon Major "the cornerstone" of his defense. There are certainly sexier nicknames, but Major doesn't mind the sound of his new moniker.

"It's just knowing every position, knowing where everyone needs to go and kind of being that glue for everyone," Major said.

Players don't receive that kind of praise from coaches without proving themselves on and off the field, which is what the junior has done despite his injury history.

Brown said Major is gifted, with uncommon instincts that help him make plays even in the rare circumstances when he finds himself out of position — very much like former Buff Jordon Dizon, the 2007 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, now with the Detroit Lions.

Major, a four-star recruit from Parker, Colo., stayed home in 2008 instead of accepting opportunities to play for traditional powers such as Notre Dame and Michigan. He still hasn't played a full season for the Buffs because of injuries.

He suffered a torn ACL as a true freshman and wasn't fully recovered until midway through his redshirt freshman year. He was the Buffs' leading tackler last season as a sophomore before suffering a sprained knee ligament in the seventh game; he missed the rest of the season.

Major didn't undergo surgery and looked to be back at 100 percent in the spring. He has played every linebacker spot in the 4-3 scheme and was listed as the starter at outside linebacker following the spring game.

It's likely he will move back inside in August, when coaches will have a few more healthy options to explore at the outside spot.

"He is steady. He's smart. He's tough," Brown said. "That wasn't a surprise to me this spring. Being here in the past with him, I know he was a good performer."

Major made the game-winning fumble recovery against Georgia in 2010 and still finished as Colorado's fifth leading tackler, despite playing in only six-and-a-half games. He was averaging nine tackles a game before his injury.

Of all the players on the Colorado roster, Major might have the best chance of becoming the first Buff to earn first-team All-Pac-12 honors. He has the talent — he just needs to stay healthy.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Tyler Hansen

The Buffs will go as far as Hansen takes them as he directs a West Coast offense that requires him making correct reads and getting rid of the ball on time. ... The senior has been the starter for half of each of the past two seasons, and he also played his freshman year. There won't be much he hasn't seen. ... He completed 68 percent of his passes last year, but must improve on a career touchdown-interception ratio of nearly 50-50.

EMERGING STAR

WR Paul Richardson

The sophomore set several freshmen receiving records in Boulder last year and is the big-play threat in this offense. ... He has the hands and the speed to do damage against any defense he will face. ... Richardson had five plays that covered 50 or more yards last season. ... He caught 34 passes for 514 yards and six touchdowns, averaging 15.1 yards per catch.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Tony Jones

The redshirt freshman averaged 5.3 yards per carry in the three spring scrimmages. ... He was the MVP at Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey in 2009, leading his team to No. 1 in the nation in the major high school rankings. As a four-year starter, he helped Don Bosco Prep to a 47-1 record. ... He was the Gatorade state Player of the Year as a senior. ... Like many young backs, he needs to work on pass protection.

Sophomore placekicker Justin Castor will compete with true freshman Will Oliver in fall camp. The Buffs desperately need more consistency here, having made only 59 percent of their field goal attempts in the past two seasons.

All aspects of the punting game need to improve. Colorado finished 88th in the nation in net punting and 69th in punt returns in 2010. Sophomore punter Zach Grossnickle didn't have any challengers for the job in the spring, but senior transfer Mark Brundage, a Rice grad with one year of eligibility left, will try to take the job in August.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Buffs play 13 consecutive games without an off week. They start the season at Hawaii, which allows them to play the extra regular-season game. Colorado, which hasn't won a road game since Oct. 27, 2007, will play seven true road games, as well as the neutral-field contest in Denver against Colorado State.

The Buffs go to Ohio State, and some of their toughest Pac-12 games will be at home — such as USC and Oregon. Colorado also plays host to Cal, which beat the Buffs 52-7 last year in Berkeley.

The Sept. 10 game against the Bears is considered non-conference, even though the teams are now in the same league. It's a quirk officials were willing to live with to ease the transition to an expanded league.

The game against fellow Pac-12 newcomer Utah was moved up one day to Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

— Kyle Ringo

OREGON DUCKS

For more coverage of the Ducks, visit oregon.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mark Helfrich | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Nick Aliotti | **STADIUM:** Autzen Stadium: 54,000

AT A GLANCE

2010:
12-1, 9-0 Pac-10 (1st)

COACH:
Chip Kelly — At Oregon and overall: 22-4, 2 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
13; 6 offense, 5 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Darron Thomas, RB LaMichael James, RB Kenjon Barner, TE David Paulson, DT Ricky Heimuli, CB Cliff Harris, FS John Boyett

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The up-tempo, spread-option offense averaged 49.3 points and 537.5 yards during a 12-0 regular season, and most of the key skill is back. The defense is talented and athletic, led by Harris. Speed abounds. The Ducks just flat-out wear down almost every opponent they play.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Oregon is breaking in three new offensive line starters, including a new center. The receiving corps needs to develop more depth. Strong senior leadership departed with graduation, and Thomas and James will have to step up in that area.

KEY LOSSES:
WR Jeff Maehl, C Jordan Holmes, OL Bo Thran, DE Kenny Rowe, DT Brandon Bair, LB Casey Matthews, LB Spencer Paysinger, CB Talmadge Jackson

OVERVIEW:
The offense's fast pace and skill should shine, and the defense has speed and talent. But here's a worry: Auburn rushed for 254 yards against Oregon and gave up only 75 yards on the ground in the BCS title game. That came a year after Ohio State similarly controlled the line of scrimmage against Oregon in the Rose Bowl. In the biggest of games, the Ducks' fortunes will rest on their offensive and defensive lines.

Ducks Return Plenty of Championship-Level Talent

The Oregon Ducks are coming off the best season in school history. Using a high-octane, hurry-up offense and a solid defense, the Ducks were 12-0 in the regular season, earning a trip to the national championship game.

Auburn was the one team the Ducks could not quite handle. The Tigers dominated the battle of the trenches, and a last-second field goal put them on top 22-19.

The Ducks have a lot of holes to fill this season as they try to win a championship in the new Pac-12 Conference and make another run at the BCS prize. But the team returns headline-grabbing playmakers in quarterback Darron Thomas, running back LaMichael James and cornerback/return man Cliff Harris.

The challenge for the Ducks will be building up the players around their stars. The offensive and defensive lines have to replace several starters. The Ducks will also have to rely on some new and unproven receivers.

"We need some receivers and we need some offensive linemen to come up big for us," coach Chip Kelly said. "Defensively, our D-line showed great growth (in spring camp), but we still need to develop depth there.

"On either side of the ball or on special teams, I don't feel like, 'Hey, we're going to win; these guys are awesome, we have the best players.' Everybody can improve. It's unlike a year ago when we had 19 starters coming back."

As important as the personnel replacements will be, equally as important will be filling the leadership roles vacated by numerous departed seniors.

"That's the big question and they know that," Kelly said. "It's a lot of responsibility on their shoulders. We had such a great group last year. The one thing that we have to replace is that experience and that leadership."

OFFENSE

The Ducks return their two biggest playmakers.

Quarterback Darron Thomas threw 30 touchdown passes last season in his first year as a starter. Running back and Heisman Trophy finalist LaMichael James has collected 3,277 yards on the ground and 38 total touchdowns in the past two seasons.

The questions for the Ducks are: Who will Thomas throw to? Who will block for James?

Tight end David Paulson and receivers Lavasier Tuinei and Josh Huff combined for 79 receptions, 1,117 yards and nine touchdowns last season. The three will have to shoulder even more of the load this season with the loss of senior receivers Jeff Maehl and D.J. Davis.

"There's no question we need some competition," offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said.

"If it does nothing else, it makes the guys here sit up straight and be prepared and be ready to go this summer. We need (some incoming receivers) to come in and be ready to go this summer. We recruited those guys with that in mind."

Last season, the Ducks averaged 286.2 yards rushing per game. This year, though, the offensive line will have three holes to fill, including the center position. Hroniss Grasu and Karrington Armstrong ended spring camp in a dead heat for the starter's role.

"That's a key position for us because if we want to play fast, it starts with the center," Kelly said. "If he can't play fast, then we're going to have a lot of problems because we can't play the game unless he snaps it. He's the key."

Despite needing to plug in three new players into the starting lineup, offensive line coach Steve Greatwood is confident this year's line can give James (as well as Kenjon Barner and Lache Seastrunk) the support he needs.

LaMichael James
Photo by Rob Holt/ SportPics

DUCKS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
47	Kiko Alonso	LB	6-4	237	Jr.	Los Gatos, CA
85	Anthony Anderson	DE	6-5	210	So.	Spring Valley, CA
78	Karrington Armstrong	OL	6-2	260	So.	Reno, NV
79	Mark Asper	OL	6-7	325	Sr.	Idaho Falls, ID
51	Isaac Ava	LB	5-10	238	Fr.	Ewa Beach, HI
24	Kenjon Barner	RB	5-11	180	Jr.	Riverside, CA
31	Kenny Bassett	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	Beverly Hills, CA
93	Rob Beard	PK	6-0	225	Jr.	Fullerton, CA
3	Bryan Bennett	QB	6-2	193	Fr.	Encino, CA
71	Everett Benyard	OL	6-7	325	So.	San Diego, CA
37	Anthony Blake	RB	5-10	190	So.	Portland
20	John Boyett	FS	5-10	198	Jr.	Napa, CA
92	Ben Butterfield	WR	6-0	186	So.	Sherwood
9	Blake Cantu	WR	6-0	203	So.	Southlake, TX
60	Ryan Clanton	OL	6-4	294	Jr.	Bakersfield, CA
46	Michael Clay	LB	5-11	220	Jr.	San Jose, CA
61	Nick Cody	OL	6-5	296	Jr.	Brush Prairie, WA
30	Nick Cole	WR	6-3	195	So.	Concord, CA
33	Tyson Coleman	LB	6-1	203	Fr.	Lake Oswego
4	Erick Dargan	DB	5-11	206	Fr.	Pittsburg, CA
84	Chad Delaney	WR	6-0	181	So.	Elmira
5	Issac Dixon	DB	5-11	185	Fr.	Miami Gardens, FL
19	Eric Dungy	WR	6-1	171	Fr.	Tampa, FL
91	Dane Ebanez	WR	5-9	174	So.	North Pole, AK
93	Jared Ebert	DL	6-5	285	Jr.	Iowa City, IA
33	Ayele Forde	RB	5-7	179	Fr.	Victorville, CA
57	Trevor Fox	OL	6-5	280	So.	Temecula, CA
38	Mike Garrity	LB	6-1	221	Fr.	San Carlos, CA
18	Anthony Gildon	CB	6-1	180	Sr.	Simi Valley, CA
70	Ramsen Golpashin	OL	6-4	275	Sr.	Saugus, CA
28	Scott Grady	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Tigard
55	Hroniss Grasu	OL	6-3	278	Fr.	Encino, CA
63	Mana Greig	OL	5-11	291	So.	Kailua, HI
60	Ryan Hagen	DT	6-3	284	So.	Brea, CA
14	Dustin Haines	QB	6-3	204	So.	Eugene
44	Brandon Hanna	DE	6-2	240	Sr.	Coeur d'Alene, ID
13	Cliff Harris	CB	5-11	165	Jr.	Fresno, CA
66	Taylor Hart	DT	6-6	275	So.	Tualatin
16	Daryle Hawkins	QB	6-4	197	So.	Omaha, NE
90	Ricky Heimuli	DT	6-4	321	So.	Glendale, UT
2	Troy Hill	DB	5-11	165	Fr.	Ventura, CA
81	Justin Hoffman	WR	6-1	206	Jr.	Eugene
50	Drew Howell	LS	6-2	220	So.	Tehachapi, CA
1	Josh Huff	WR	5-11	207	So.	Houston, TX
12	Brian Jackson	DB	5-10	194	So.	Hoover, AL
21	LaMichael James	RB	5-9	185	Jr.	Texarkana, TX
90	Neil Johanson	P	6-0	185	Jr.	Camarillo, CA
96	Dion Jordan	DE	6-7	230	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
56	Josh Kaddu	LB	6-3	230	Sr.	Vacaville, CA
43	Keloni Kamalani	LB	5-11	216	So.	Kihei, HI
92	Wade Keliikipi	DT	6-2	289	So.	Waianae, HI
25	Boseko Lokombo	LB	6-3	223	So.	Abbotsford, B.C.
7	Keanon Lowe	WR	5-9	173	Fr.	Portland
32	Colt Lyerla	TE	6-5	225	Fr.	Hillsboro
32	J.R. Maffie	DB	5-11	197	So.	Diamond Bar, CA
41	Alejandro Maldonado	PK	5-10	198	So.	Colton, CA
22	Derrick Malone	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Colton, CA
6	Dior Mathis	CB	5-9	170	Fr.	Detroit, MI
94	Axel McQuaw	DT	6-6	275	So.	Yachats
27	Terrance Mitchell	DB	6-0	183	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
90	Will Murphy	WR	6-2	183	Jr.	Albany
62	Nick Musgrove	DE	6-1	230	Sr.	Eugene
59	Jeff Palmer	LS	5-10	195	Jr.	Dana Point, CA
31	Avery Patterson	CB	5-10	175	So.	Pittsburg, CA
42	David Paulson	TE	6-4	241	Sr.	Auburn, WA
11	Eddie Pleasant	SS	5-11	213	Sr.	La Palma, CA
65	Isaac Remington	DT	6-6	286	Jr.	Queen Creek, AZ
49	Jackson Rice	P	6-3	225	Jr.	Moraga, CA
67	Josh Sanford	OL	6-2	276	Sr.	St. Helens
17	James Scales	DB	5-10	185	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
15	Lache Seastrunk	RB	5-9	190	Fr.	Temple, TX
48	Eric Solis	PK	5-10	182	So.	Sherman Oaks, CA
73	Brenton Spickerman	OL	6-6	282	So.	West Linn
41	Blake Stanton	WR	5-11	202	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
53	Jennings Stewart	LB	6-3	217	Jr.	Grants Pass
52	Dewitt Stuckey	LB	5-11	221	Sr.	Stockton, CA
86	Brian Teague	TE	6-3	258	So.	Portland
5	Darron Thomas	QB	6-3	215	Jr.	Houston, TX
40	Blake Thompson	LB	5-11	230	Sr.	Cottage Grove
59	Grant Thompson	LB	5-11	213	Fr.	Cottage Grove
80	Lavasier Tuinei	WR	6-5	216	Sr.	Arcadia, IN
45	Terrell Turner	DE	6-3	273	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
98	Dallen Voeller	WR	6-3	210	Fr.	West Linn
91	Tony Washington	DE	6-3	255	Fr.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
74	Darrion Weems	OL	6-5	292	Sr.	Winnetka, CA
83	Curtis White	TE	6-4	250	Fr.	Eugene
87	Brandon Williams	TE	6-4	237	Sr.	Merrionette Park, IL
77	Carson York	OL	6-5	286	Jr.	Coeur d'Alene, ID

NOTEBOOK

Linebacker **Kiko Alonso** was suspended indefinitely in the spring for an off-field incident. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of trespassing and criminal mischief in May.

Before he got into trouble, defensive coordinator **Nick Aliotti** had praise for the junior, who was trying to fill the shoes of departed linebacker **Casey Matthews**.

"Kiko Alonso ... I don't want to take anything away from (fellow middle linebacker) **Dewitt Stuckey**, but he's 6-3, 6-4, 235-240 pounds, runs very well, very physical, strong," Aliotti said.

"When he gets the knowledge that Matthews had — you never like to compare — but I'm going to be honest like I always am ... if that comes to fruition, he'll play on Sundays."

Alonso's court punishment: Two years of probation, 200 hours of community service and alcohol treatment.

• **LaMichael James**, on Oregon's offensive line: "They have to get better. We're getting better. You're not going to go out with three new starters and be a great offensive front. We'll have growing pains."

The Ducks have been the Pac-10's top rushing team for five consecutive years. James, who led the country in rushing last season (144.2 yards per game), adds, "I think it'll be just as good as last year. I don't think we'll miss a beat."

James has 18 100-yard rushing games. He totaled 1,731 rushing yards, a UO single-season best, in 2010.

• James wonders how much teams will ramp up practice pace to contend with UO's conditioning and in-game tempo.

"They should be preparing for the tempo ASAP," he said of opponents.

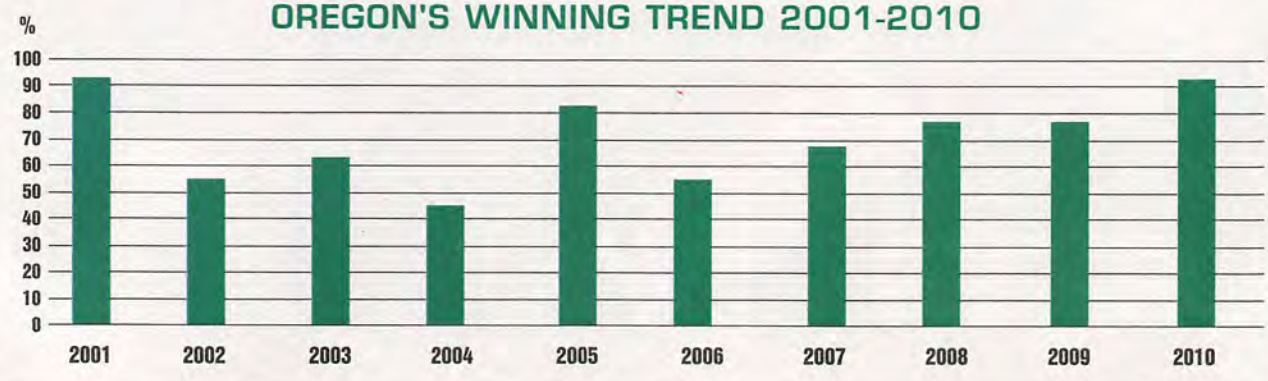
Oregon led the country in scoring (47.0 points per game) and in total offense (530.7 yards) last season.

• Junior college transfer **Rahsaan Vaughn**, and incoming freshmen **B.J. Kelley**, **Tacoi Sumler** and **Devon Blackmon** will compete to play right away at receiver.

Prized recruit **De'Anthony Thomas**, a 5-9, 160-pound athlete from L.A.'s Crenshaw High, wants to play offense. Offensive coordinator **Mark Helfrich** compares Thomas with **Kenjon Barner**, who practiced at defensive back as a redshirt.

Linebacker **Tyson Coleman** and tight end **Colt Lyerla** were early prep entries at spring ball.

OREGON'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



"This group will rise to the challenge," Greatwood said.

"We're going to have some growing pains. Hopefully not too many. It's just a consistent work in progress that we've got to keep going through. We may be trying to figure out the puzzle a couple of games into the season. But we have the bodies to be able to get it done."

DEFENSE

The Ducks offense usually gets the most credit, and with good reason. But despite losing some key starters from last year, the defense seems poised to have a big year in 2011 as well.

"I'm not bragging; we had a really good spring," defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti said. "We got a lot of things accomplished. I feel really good where we are right now."

The secondary may be the strongest piece of the defense. Two-year starter John Boyett is an anchor at free safety. After moving from linebacker to rover last season, Eddie Pleasant will be even more comfortable. Highlighting the group is Cliff Harris, an electrifying corner who returned two interceptions for touchdowns in 2010 and had six total picks.

Secondary coach John Neal said Harris has become an even more complete player.

"He's always been relatively solid," Neal said. "Cliff is always around the ball. His discipline and knowledge of our system is so much better, so he can become a great player when all those things are right."

Oregon has question marks at linebacker and on the defensive line.

The Ducks lost two senior linebackers from last season — Casey Matthews and Spencer Paysinger. But they had six solid linebackers throughout the spring, led by returning starter Josh Kaddu and Michael Clay.

Expected starting middle linebacker Kiko Alonso, who nursed a knee injury while sitting out in 2010 after a drunken driving arrest, pleaded guilty in May to misdemeanor charges stemming from a home break-in the morning after the spring game. His status with the team was in question, but Dewitt Stuckey could step into the role if needed.

Three starters are gone up front, but the Ducks rotated linemen last season, meaning returning starting defensive end Terrell Turner, tackles Ricky Heimuli, Wade Keliikipi and Taylor Hart, and defensive ends Dion Jordan and Brandon Hanna saw a good bit of action last season.

Heimuli, a 6-4, 321-pound sophomore who played much as a true freshman, could be the breakout star on the defensive line.

"I'm getting very confident," Heimuli said. "Being able to play my first year, I know what's expected of us and I know what to do on the field."

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Ducks return both their kicker and punter. Placekicker Rob Beard was 10 of

Cliff Harris
Photo by Jason O. Watson-US PRESSWIRE

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 286.2 ypg rushing (1st in Pac-10/4th NCAA), 244.5 passing (4th/39th), 530.7 total offense (1st/1st), 47.0 ppg (1st/1st)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Darron Thomas*	Jr.	Accounted for 35 TDs in 2010; could run more.	Bryan Bennett, Fr.
RB	LaMichael James*	Jr.	Averaging 6.3 yards per carry in his career.	Kenjon Barner, Jr.
WR	Lavasier Tuinei*	Sr.	Coach Chip Kelly: "We've got to count on him."	Blake Cantu, So.
WR	Josh Huff	So.	Didn't have any catches or runs in BCS title game.	Will Murphy, Jr.
WR	Justin Hoffman	Jr.	Earns playing time because of his blocking.	Daryle Hawkins, So.
TE	David Paulson*	Sr.	Has 36 career grabs and is a very reliable option.	Brandon Williams, Sr.
LT	Darrion Weems	Sr.	Experienced player will protect Thomas' backside.	Ryan Clanton, Jr.
LG	Carson York*	Jr.	Feisty and sound ... but not very big (286 pounds).	Mana Greig, So.
C	Karrington Armstrong	So.	This job is a tossup heading into fall camp.	Hroniss Grasu, Fr.
RG	Nick Cody	Jr.	He's played some, but he's a new piece on first team.	Ramsen Golpashin, Sr.
RT	Mark Asper*	Sr.	Nice size (6-7, 325) and is seasoned; will need to lead.	Everett Benyard, So.
K	Rob Beard*	Jr.	Has been dependable and has a strong leg.	Alejandro Maldonado, So.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 128.1 ypg rushing (3rd in Pac-10/27th NCAA), 217.9 passing (6th/56th), 346.0 total defense (4th/34th), 18.7 ppg (2nd/12th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Terrell Turner*	Sr.	Former linebacker has turned into a solid end.	Isaac Remington, Jr.
DT	Ricky Heimuli	So.	Was a much-needed recruiting coup in 2010.	Jared Ebert, Jr.
DT	Wade Keliikipi	So.	Had solid redshirt freshman season (18 tackles).	Taylor Hart, So.
DE	Dion Jordan	Jr.	Converted from tight end last year; very athletic.	Brandon Hanna, Sr.
LB	Josh Kaddu*	Sr.	Made 32 tackles in 13 games as starter last season.	Boseko Lokombo, So.
LB	Dewitt Stuckey	Sr.	Who's starting? Alonso's status up in air in spring.	Kiko Alonso, Jr.
LB	Michael Clay	Jr.	Impressive third-year player; top backup LB in 2010.	Derrick Malone, Fr.
CB	Cliff Harris*	Jr.	Spectacular playmaker; consensus 2010 All-American.	Troy Hill, Fr.
CB	Anthony Gildon	Sr.	Has experienced, but young guns will challenge.	Terrance Mitchell, Fr.
SS	Eddie Pleasant*	Sr.	Needs to make more plays? No picks last season.	Brian Jackson, So.
FS	John Boyett*	Jr.	Has 168 tackles in two years (11 vs. Auburn).	Avery Patterson, So.
P	Jackson Rice*	Jr.	Improved to 42.3-yard average in '10 (40.5 as frosh).	Alejandro Maldonado, So.

*Returning Starter

DUCKS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Devon Blackmon	WR	6-0	175	✪✪✪✪	Fontana, CA	Summit
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 3 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 5 wide receiver…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Tra Carson	RB	6-1	218	✪✪✪	Texarkana, TX	Liberty-Eylau
Rated as the nation's No. 55 running back by Rivals.com…Rushed for 2,202 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior.						
Rahim Cassell	LB	6-1	215	✪✪✪	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Rated as the No. 85 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 60 outside linebacker.						
Tyson Coleman	LB	6-2	200	✪✪✪	Lake Oswego, OR	Lake Oswego
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 20 outside linebacker.						
Jared Ebert	DT	6-5	285	✪✪✪✪	Council Bluffs, IA	Iowa Western C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 8 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Oklahoma State, Penn State and others.						
Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	DB	5-10	180	✪✪✪✪	Chino Hills, CA	Chino Hills
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 18 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 17 cornerback.						
James Euscher	OL	6-7	278	✪✪✪	Beaverton, OR	Aloha
First-team all-state selection…Also participated in basketball and track.						
Jacob Fisher	OL	6-7	270	✪✪✪	Traverse City, MI	West
Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Michigan by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 49 offensive tackle.						
Christian French	ATH	6-6	229	✪✪✪✪	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kennedy
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Iowa…Rated as the nation's No. 5 athlete…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Carlyle Garrick	LB	6-2	205	✪✪✪	Castro Valley, CA	Castro Valley
Had 29 catches for 456 yards and four touchdowns on offense as a junior…Also participated in track.						
Rodney Hardrick	LB	6-3	205	✪✪✪	Colton, CA	Colton
Rated as the No. 94 prospect in California by Rivals.com… Had 41 catches for 808 yards and 10 touchdowns on offense to go with 98 total tackles, six sacks and two interceptions on defense as a senior.						
Tyler Johnstone	OL	6-6	260	✪✪✪✪	Chandler, AZ	Hamilton
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 16 offensive tackle.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Sam Kamp	DE	6-5	237	✪✪✪	Mesa, AZ	Mountain View
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 54 strongside defensive end.						
B.J. Kelley	WR	6-2	175	✪✪✪	Fresno, CA	Central East
Rated as the nation's No. 98 wide receiver by Rivals.com… Had 51 catches for 1,223 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior.						
Lake Koa-Ka'ai	DE	6-4	235	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	Kamehameha School
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Arizona, Nebraska, Stanford and others.						
Colt Lyerla	ATH	6-5	225	✪✪✪✪✪	Hillsboro, OR	Hillsboro
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Oregon…Rated as the nation's No. 2 athlete…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Marcus Mariota	QB	6-4	185	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	St. Louis
Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 12 dual-threat quarterback.						
Jamal Prater	OL	6-4	290	✪✪✪	Etiwanda, CA	Etiwanda
Rated as the No. 78 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 73 offensive tackle.						
Tacoi Sumler	WR	5-8	151	✪✪✪✪	Miami, FL	Columbus
Rated as the No. 36 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 27 wide receiver.						
De'Anthony Thomas	ATH	5-9	160	✪✪✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Crenshaw
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 1 athlete…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Rahsaan Vaughn	WR	6-2	190	✪✪✪✪	San Mateo, CA	College of San Mateo
Rated as the nation's No. 19 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Had 60 catches for more than 1,000 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2010.						
Anthony Wallace	LB	6-2	220	✪✪✪✪	Dallas, TX	Skyline
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Texas…Rated as the nation's No. 6 inside linebacker.						
Andre Yruretagoyena	OL	6-5	258	✪✪✪✪	Scottsdale, AZ	Chaparral
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 10 offensive tackle.						

A LOOK AT THE DUCKS

RESULTS

12-1, 9-0

W	NEW MEXICO	72-0
W	at Tennessee	48-13
W	PORTLAND STATE	69-0
W	at Arizona State	42-31
W	STANFORD	52-31
W	at Washington State	43-23
W	UCLA	60-13
W	at USC	53-32
W	WASHINGTON	53-16
W	at California	15-13
W	ARIZONA	48-29
W	at Oregon State	37-20
	BCS National Championship Game	
L	vs. Auburn	19-22

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
D. Thomas	13	222	361	9	61.5	2881	30
N. Costa	9	25	33	0	75.8	286	1

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
L. James	12	294	1731	5.9	21	76	144.2
K. Barner	11	91	551	6.1	6	41	50.1
D. Thomas	13	93	486	5.2	5	35	37.4

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Maehl	13	77	1076	14.0	12	81	82.8
D.J. Davis	13	42	470	11.2	3	38	36.2
L. Tuinei	11	36	396	11.0	2	43	36.0

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Matthews 79, J. Boyett 78, S. Paysinger 76
Tackles for loss: K. Rowe 16.5, B. Bair 16, Z. Clark 9.5
Sacks: K. Rowe 7, Z. Clark 4, three tied with 3
Interceptions: C. Harris 6, J. Boyett 5, C. Matthews 3

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	vs. LSU (Arlington)	11-2
Sept. 10	NEVADA	13-1
Sept. 17	MISSOURI STATE	5-6
Sept. 24	at Arizona	7-6
Oct. 6	CALIFORNIA	5-7
Oct. 15	ARIZONA STATE	6-6
Oct. 22	at Colorado	5-7
Oct. 29	WASHINGTON STATE	2-10
Nov. 5	at Washington	7-6
Nov. 12	at Stanford	12-1
Nov. 19	USC	8-5
Nov. 26	OREGON STATE	5-7

PLAYER PROFILE

Darron Thomas
Photo by Dave Sizer

QB at heart, Thomas Has Found His Niche

The college football career of Ducks quarterback Darron Thomas might have been far different than what it has become. After the 2009 season, Thomas was third on the depth chart, behind Jeremiah Masoli and Nate Costa.

An exceptional athlete, Thomas might have played several other positions. But quarterback was his calling.

"I wanted to play quarterback in college. I had played other positions all my life," Thomas said.

"But once I got into the quarterback position, and the fame you get from playing quarterback ...," he added, his voice trailing off with a laugh.

Thomas was not forced to make a decision about playing another position. Masoli, after multiple run-ins with the law, was dismissed from the team, leaving Thomas to compete for the starting position against Costa, a fifth year senior.

Thomas won the battle and became a star in 2010. He has his fame — and a whole lot of winning. He completed 222 of 361 passes for 2,881 yards, with 30 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He also rushed for 486 yards and five scores. In the national championship game, he threw for 363 yards and two touchdowns against Auburn.

As Thomas takes the field this year, the Ducks have even higher hopes for him.

"Our goal for him last year was, 'Can you improve?'" coach Chip Kelly said.

"You saw improvement every day. This year, it's not only to improve individually as a football player, but, really to be a leader of this team. He's starting to fall into the role. Last year, he really wasn't forced to shoulder that leadership role. But now he is and he's growing into it."

Thomas said he will share a lot of the leadership responsibilities with running back LaMichael James. But it is a role he is willing to take on.

"It's going to be on us in the backfield," Thomas said. "We're the older guys. I guarantee, we start moving, the other guys will follow."

As Thomas continues to become a leader for the Ducks, Kelly believes the quarterback's ability to remain calm in the eye of the storm will be critical.

"When you put him into a game, he plays with such poise," Kelly said. "He doesn't get rattled. When you're out on the field, you always look to the quarterback. The demeanor he has is the demeanor of the rest of our team."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB LaMichael James

The Heisman Trophy finalist put on about 12 pounds since last season, weighing 192 pounds in the spring. "I'm just natural. Food and weights," he said. "I'm not a supplement (kind of guy)." ... Returned to the Ducks for a fourth year intent on getting his degree. ... He and Kenjon Barner could see action at slot receiver, or the "TAZR" position. ... Oregon's first unanimous All-American and Doak Walker Award winner. ... Ranks second all-time at UO with 3,277 rushing yards and 35 rushing TDs.

EMERGING STAR

DT Ricky Heimuli

He skipped a Mormon mission to stay with the Ducks. ... At 6-4, 321 and from Salt Lake City, Utah, he draws comparisons to ex-Duck Haloti Ngata. "I try not to pay attention to it so much," he said. "It's hard to fill Haloti's shoes. Haloti's a legend here. I'm doing my best to get up there." ... As a sophomore, he needs to work on "staying low," he said. "I have the tendency to get high a little bit. My pass rush and strength are fine."

TOP NEWCOMER

TE Colt Lyerla

From suburban Portland's Hillsboro High, he was recruited as a wide receiver/tight end, but was deemed versatile enough to play defensive end and linebacker. ... Enrolled early and impressed in spring ball. ... Coach Chip Kelly calls him possibly the best athlete in the country for the 2011 recruiting class, at 6-5, 225 pounds. "He's got a skill set that's certainly unique," the coach said.

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13 on field goal attempts and 63 on 64 on extra point tries. Punter Jackson Rice averaged 42.3 yards per attempt last season.

The return game has several players who are touchdown threats whenever they touch the ball. Cliff Harris averaged 18.8 yards and scored four touchdowns on punt returns in 2010. Kenjon Barner and Josh Huff will be the deep men on kickoffs.

Even with all the returning talent, special teams coach Tom Osborne believes a huge factor for success is that the players have to take the field with a desire to change the outcome of the game.

"Our guys understand and believe they can make a difference in the game," Osborne said.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

As in 2009, when UO lost at Boise State, the Ducks introduce a revamped offensive line against a high- quality opponent. This time, it's LSU in Arlington, Texas. Somebody's BCS title dreams could end early.

The Pac-12 slate begins at Arizona, where the Ducks barely escaped two seasons ago in overtime.

Oregon misses UCLA and first-year conference member Utah in the new unbalanced schedule, but it does get to travel to a new league location — Colorado — on Oct. 22.

Much of the season is a build-up to an expected showdown at Stanford on Nov. 12. Home games with USC and OSU wrap up an exciting November, with the Pac-12 title game looming Dec. 3.

— Jason Vondersmith and Stephen Alexander

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

For more coverage of the Beavers, visit oregonstate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Danny Langsdorf **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Mark Banker **STADIUM:** Reser Stadium: 45,674

AT A GLANCE

2010:
5-7, 4-5 Pac-10 (T-5th)

COACH:
Mike Riley — At Oregon State and overall: 69-54, 10 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
14, 8 offense, 5 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Ryan Katz, WR James Rodgers, WR Markus Wheaton, TE Joe Halahuni, LB Cameron Collins, CB Jordan Poyer, CB Brandon Hardin, S Lance Mitchell

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The Beavers have a veteran quarterback in Katz, who is needed to make the offense run smoothly. There are plenty of targets to throw to and the potential to put up big numbers is there. The secondary is experienced, and the new linebackers are more athletic than last year's group.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The four returners on the offensive line didn't run-block well last season, and pass-blocking fell apart by the end. The defensive line hasn't put any pressure on opposing quarterbacks. This year, the group is undersized and inexperienced.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Jacquizz Rodgers, C Alex Linnenkohl, DT Stephen Paea, LB Dwight Roberson, CB James Dockery, S Suaesi Tuimaunei

OVERVIEW:
There is pressure to get back to a bowl game after missing out for the first time since 2005. The offensive linemen were shuffled, but must make a major offseason jump in strength and find a little attitude. There's plenty of defensive talent, but it won't be showcased unless the defensive line disrupts offenses.

Injuries Nag Beavers, but They Like Pac-12 Chances

Oregon State has to address plenty of areas as it heads into the season. The biggest concern is basic: Who will be available?

Injuries stalled the team in the middle of last season. It started with the knee injury to star all-purpose receiver James Rodgers, who went down in the fifth game. He was in the midst of a standout season, averaging 176.8 all-purpose yards a game.

Rodgers needed two knee surgeries in the winter. He missed spring practice and will ease back into action during August, but Rodgers might not be at full strength at the beginning of the season.

"The question marks surrounding us are health issues," coach Mike Riley said. "I'm confident most of our key guys will be back. James Rodgers is the unknown. So, at the same time, I have to have contingency plans."

Several other receivers were hurt during spring, with the most significant setback being the ankle injury to slot back Jordan Bishop. He suffered the injury in a pickup basketball game and surgery was required.

Tight end Joe Halahuni had surgery on his shoulder after the spring. He was injured during the season, and the shoulder didn't get better. He hopes to return by the beginning of the season.

Projected starting defensive tackle Castro Masaniai missed the spring rehabbing a shoulder injury suffered against California on Oct. 30.

And plenty of others have various nagging injuries, too.

If they can get healthy, the Beavers are confident they have the pieces to return to the postseason after missing out last year.

"I feel like we have one of the best offenses in the Pac-12, if not the best, with everyone coming back," junior receiver Markus Wheaton said.

OFFENSE

The Beavers limited quarterback Ryan Katz during spring practice to keep his fractured throwing wrist from harm's way. They held him out of all scrimmage situations.

A tailback must come to the forefront since three-year starter Jacquizz Rodgers left early for the NFL. The position might turn into running back by committee, which is something Riley doesn't typically like.

"I'm comfortable with it at this point," Riley said. "It should work out."

Senior Ryan McCants has the build and open-field speed, but he lacks receiving skills and has battled fumble issues. Junior Jordan Jenkins missed the spring with a shoulder injury, while sophomore Jovan Stevenson played well but must work on his blocking.

Greyshirt Terron Ward impressed the coaches in the spring as an all-around performer, but he underwent arthroscopic knee surgery after spring practice. He's expected to play as a freshman, potentially as a third-down back and maybe more.

"We haven't defined what we are going to do, yet," Riley said. "Ryan (McCants) had a great spring. Terron had a good spring, and we are looking forward to what he can do in the fall."

Markus Wheaton should carry the early load at receiver as James Rodgers, Jordan Bishop and tight end Joe Halahuni get back up to speed. Younger receivers such as Obum Gwacham and Geno Munoz must fill in.

The line is a concern after the Beavers gave up 35 sacks, and the running game ranked only 97th nationally. Even though there are four returning starters up front, coaches mixed and matched players in the spring to find the right combination.

Grant Johnson moved from right guard to center, and offensive tackles Mike Remmers and Michael Philipp switched sides. Remmers is now on the left to protect the passer's blind side.

Markus Wheaton
Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

BEAVERS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
85	Brett Ackerman	WR	6-2	204	So.	Venice, CA
55	Shaydon Akuna	LB	6-0	229	Fr.	Nankuli, HI
33	Tyler Anderson	FB	5-9	213	Fr.	Walnut Creek, CA
69	Josh Andrews	OL	6-2	289	So.	Fontana, CA
51	Michael Beaton	OL	6-3	299	Fr.	Dallas
37	Jeff Bedbury	WR	5-10	191	Fr.	Eugene
45	Michael Bibbee	LB	6-2	248	Fr.	Eugene
23	Jordan Bishop	WR	6-3	204	Jr.	West Salem
76	John Braun	DE	6-5	265	So.	Albany
15	Darrell Catchings	WR	5-11	174	Sr.	Escondido, CA
5	Cameron Collins	LB	6-2	244	Sr.	Santa Monica, CA
95	Scott Crichton	DE	6-3	258	Fr.	Tacoma, WA
84	Kevin Cummings	WR	6-0	178	So.	Culver City, CA
12	Dax Dilbeck	S	6-1	201	So.	Edmond, OK
40	Michael Doctor	LB	5-11	223	So.	Tulsa, OK
74	Burke Ellis	OG	6-4	290	Sr.	Canby
71	Grant Enger	OL	6-5	279	So.	Bothell, WA
80	Danny Evans	WR	6-3	184	Jr.	Pine Bluff, AR
56	Rusty Fernando	DE	6-3	232	Jr.	Apache Junction, AZ
74	Kevin Frahm	DT	6-2	273	Sr.	Portland
62	Geoff Garner	OL	6-5	307	So.	Mesa, AZ
51	Charlie Gilmur	LB	6-1	240	So.	Tacoma, WA
96	Dominic Glover	DT	6-2	263	Sr.	Mission Viejo, CA
86	Obum Gwacham	WR	6-5	222	Fr.	Chino Hills, CA
87	Joe Halahuni	TE	6-2	258	Sr.	Graham, WA
40	Garett Hall	WR	5-8	197	So.	Olympia, WA
89	Connor Hamlett	TE	6-6	258	Fr.	Edmonds, WA
21	Ryan Handford	CB	5-9	193	Jr.	New Brunswick, NJ
17	Brandon Hardin	CB	6-2	220	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
99	Blake Harrah	DE	6-1	247	Jr.	Temecula, CA
81	Micah Hatfield	WR	6-0	175	So.	Lake Oswego
7	Johnny Hekker	P	6-5	221	Sr.	Bothell, WA
91	Taylor Henry	DE	6-1	255	Jr.	Altadena, CA
72	Darryl Jackson	OT	6-6	314	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
34	Jordan Jenkins	RB	6-1	207	Jr.	Salem
70	Grant Johnson	OL	6-3	293	Sr.	Baker City
18	Max Johnson	PK	5-10	184	Fr.	Astoria
12	Ryan Katz	QB	6-1	212	Jr.	Santa Monica, CA
94	Devon Kell	DE	6-3	246	So.	Hilo, HI
64	Colin Kelly	OL	6-4	286	Jr.	Kelso, WA
48	Keith Kostol	P	6-3	186	Fr.	Tigard
26	Josh LaGrone	S	6-1	191	Jr.	San Diego, CA
61	Michael Lamb	OG	6-3	293	Sr.	Portland
15	Levi Levasa	S	5-11	207	So.	Tualatin
17	Jack Lomax	QB	6-2	170	So.	Lake Oswego
79	Joe Lopez	DT	6-0	271	Fr.	Portland
53	Colin Lyons	OG	6-3	275	Jr.	Carmichael, CA
79	Aaron Magnuson	OL	6-3	299	So.	Albany
4	Sean Mannion	QB	6-5	221	Fr.	Pleasanton, CA
22	Malcolm Marable	RB	5-7	166	Fr.	Pasadena, CA
6	Sean Martin	CB	5-11	182	So.	Corona, CA
98	Castro Masaniai	DT	6-2	341	Jr.	Waipahu, HI
24	Ryan McCants	RB	6-1	237	Sr.	Corona, CA
32	Westly Meng	FB	6-0	218	Fr.	Gresham
10	Lance Mitchell	S	6-2	206	Sr.	Pasadena, CA
58	Michael Morovick	LS	6-0	218	Fr.	Mission Viejo, CA
66	Ben Motter	DT	6-5	284	Sr.	Philomath
18	Geno Munoz	WR	6-0	197	Jr.	Tacoma, WA
25	Ryan Murphy	S	6-3	215	Fr.	Oakland, CA
75	Derek Nielsen	OL	6-3	263	Fr.	Eugene
36	Josh Parish	LB	5-11	223	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
20	Keynan Parker	CB	5-11	181	Jr.	New Westminster, B.C.
36	Dylan Parsons	FB	5-9	211	So.	Olympia, WA
57	Marcus Perry	LS	5-11	218	Sr.	Eastlake, CA
88	Tyler Perry	TE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ventura, CA
77	Michael Philipp	OT	6-3	298	Jr.	San Bernardino, CA
14	Jordan Poyer	CB	5-11	189	Jr.	Astoria
82	Colby Prince	TE	6-3	266	Jr.	Albany
50	Mike Remmers	OT	6-4	299	Sr.	Portland
16	Rashaad Reynolds	CB	5-10	184	So.	Los Angeles, CA
13	Rueben Robinson	LB	6-3	235	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
1	James Rodgers	WR	5-7	188	Sr.	Richmond, TX
27	Trevor Romaine	PK	5-10	195	Fr.	Corona, CA
93	Mana Rosa	DE	6-3	266	So.	Haiku, HI
67	Rory Ross	OL	6-3	288	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
30	Zeke Sanders	S	6-1	210	So.	Santa Cruz, CA
65	Roman Sapolu	OL	6-0	266	Fr.	Huntington Beach, CA
49	Andrew Seumalo	DE	6-3	275	Jr.	Corvallis
21	Mitch Singler	WR	6-2	204	So.	Medford
19	Jovan Stevenson	RB	5-11	199	So.	Tucson, AZ
29	Will Storey	S/LB	6-1	214	Fr.	Lake Oswego
46	Shiloah Te'o	LB	5-10	221	Jr.	Laie, HI
92	Fred Thompson	DT	6-4	318	Fr.	Richmond, CA
97	Mana Tuivailala	DT	6-3	279	Fr.	Seaside, CA
41	Feti Unga	LB	6-2	244	Jr.	Rochester, CA
14	Cody Vaz	QB	6-0	190	So.	Lodi, CA
73	David Vieru	OL	6-2	318	Fr.	Portland
28	Terron Ward	RB	5-7	190	Fr.	Antioch, CA
3	Anthony Watkins	S	6-1	224	Jr.	Burien, WA
38	Brian Watkins	CB	5-9	188	Jr.	Burien, WA
39	Donell Welch	LB	6-1	218	Fr.	Palm Desert, CA
52	Troy Whalen	LS	6-1	206	Fr.	Concord, CA
2	Markus Wheaton	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
47	Josh Williams	LB	6-0	218	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
43	Tony Wilson	LB	6-1	246	Jr.	Salem
42	Clayton York	FB	6-0	226	Jr.	Redmond

NOTEBOOK

Oregon State needed to shake up its assistant coaching staff after a 5-7 season. The Beavers wanted youthful enthusiasm and people who could improve recruiting.

When running backs coach Reggie Davis left for the San Francisco 49ers, Oregon State coach **Mike Riley** brought in **Chris Brasfield**, a graduate assistant from rival Oregon, to coach the backs. Riley also brought in receivers coach **Brent Brennan** from San Jose State.

Brasfield and Brennan both made impacts during spring practice with their twists to drills that inspired the players.

"They are really smart guys, and they really add to our staff," Riley said.

Brennan, who was also the recruiting coordinator at San Jose State, is originally from Texas. So his job is to continue to find standout players from that hotbed, given the Beavers have had recent success in Texas with the Rodgers brothers.

• Coaching assignments needed to be shuffled with the addition of two newcomers because there was only one paid position open.

Jay Locey moved from receivers to tight ends to make room for Brennan. Veteran grad assistants had handled coaching the tight ends, but Riley wanted more stability there.

That also meant he needed to cut a coach. That ended up being long-time defensive assistant **Greg Newhouse**, who had been working with the linebackers.

Defensive coordinator **Mark Banker** moved from safeties to linebackers. That made cornerbacks coach **Keith Heyward** the secondary coach.

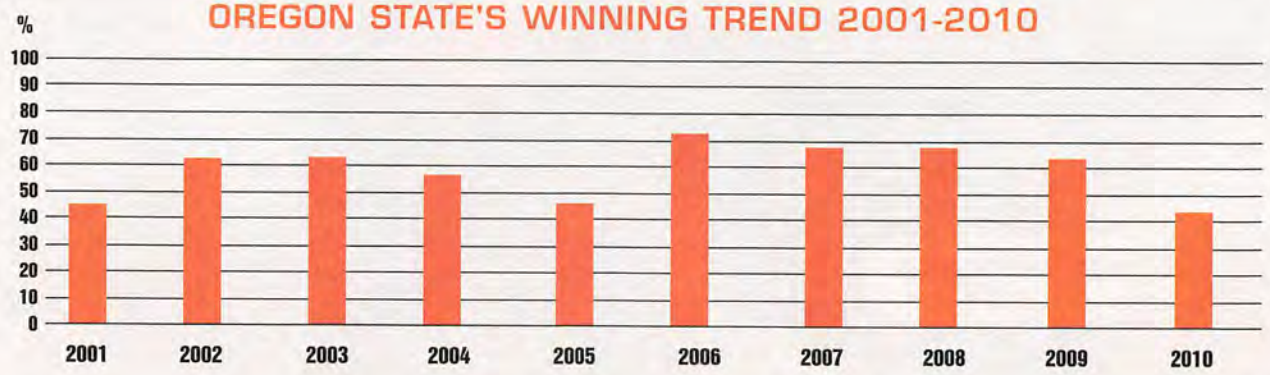
"This gives me the opportunity to be part of the run and passing game by being in the middle of everything," Banker said.

• Cornerback **Jordan Poyer** attempted to play outfield for the Oregon State baseball team in the spring while still working out with the football team. By midseason, he found it to be too much.

Poyer decided to concentrate on football since he's a projected starter. He wanted to earn his spot and work on returning kicks.

"At the end of the day, I had to do what's best for me and the best for my future," Poyer said about leaving baseball. "I had to hang them up and try to help this team win a Rose Bowl."

OREGON STATE'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



Josh Andrews is the newcomer at left guard. The right side is being contested, with Michael Lamb and Colin Kelly pushing veterans Burke Ellis and Philipp.

"I think they were all good moves," Riley said. "Grant Johnson moved in there easily, and all of them improved. Josh Andrews is a good player. I feel confident with the offensive line."

DEFENSE

Oregon State rebuilt its line with junior college transfers Blake Harrah and Rusty Fernando at defensive end. They possess speed and experience, both of which the Beavers need since none of the returners are proven pass rushers.

They join Taylor Henry, who is the most experienced end. Underclassmen Scott Crichton and Mana Rosa also look to make an impact.

"Taylor Henry added weight, and kept his speed," Riley said. "I think our pass rush will improve."

Replacing defensive tackle Stephen Paea, a second-round NFL draft pick, won't be easy. The Beavers plan to rotate eight players throughout the line to keep them fresh — important because they're undersized.

Dominic Glover moved from end to defensive tackle to add depth inside. Kevin Frahm is the returning starter after starting his career at end. If Masaniai returns from injury, the interior should be strong.

"I think it was great," Riley said of the development of the line. "We still have a lot of work to do. I don't know if we are ready to play a game right now, but it looked like we had great speed and tenacity."

New outside linebackers are athletic upgrades. Cameron Collins started out as a safety but moved to linebacker last season because his 6-2, 244-pound frame suited the position better. Sophomore Michael Doctor produced in his opportunities as a backup. Shaydon Akuna, D.J. Welch and BYU transfer Shiloah Te'o are developing, but add quality depth on the outside.

A position battle continues at middle linebacker with Rueben Robinson, Tony Wilson and Kevin Unga. Robinson and Wilson rotated last year, but the Beavers want someone to take over.

"All the middle linebackers elevated themselves," Riley said. "There's no frontrunner, yet. We'll let it play out."

The secondary continues to be the defensive strength, led by safety Lance Mitchell and cornerback Brandon Hardin. Cornerback Jordan Poyer and safety Anthony Watkins shined in backup roles last year. Cornerback Rashaad Reynolds and safety Josh LaGrone are the players in waiting.

"I like that group a lot," Riley said. "I like the young corners, especially. They all had good springs."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Johnny Hekker developed into a game-changer. He has a booming leg — he averaged 41.7 yards per attempt last

Lance Mitchell
Photo by Ric Tapia/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 119.6 ypg rushing (9th in Pac-10/97th NCAA), 206.9 passing (7th/71st), 326.5 total offense (9th/94th), 24.4 ppg (7th/82nd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Ryan Katz*	Jr.	Promising player returns from fractured hand.	Cody Vaz, So.
RB	Ryan McCants	Sr.	Working hard to fulfill potential and fill big shoes.	Jovan Stevenson, So.
WR	James Rodgers*	Sr.	Will he be the same after knee surgery?	Darrell Catchings, Sr.
WR	Jordan Bishop*	Jr.	He's waiting for his breakout season.	Geno Munoz, Jr.
WR	Markus Wheaton*	Jr.	A big year is awaiting him as potential go-to guy.	Obum Gwacham, Fr.
TE	Joe Halahuni	Sr.	He's coming back from shoulder surgery.	Colby Prince, Jr.
LT	Mike Remmers*	Sr.	Fourth-year starter is the team's top pass blocker.	Geoff Garner, So.
LG	Josh Andrews	So.	Lone new starter brings intensity to the line.	Grant Enger, So.
C	Grant Johnson*	Sr.	Moved from guard to center with ease.	Roman Sapolu, Fr.
RG	Burke Ellis*	Sr.	Working hard to keep his position.	Michael Lamb, Sr.
RT	Michael Philipp*	Jr.	Hopes to stay healthy and effective.	Colin Kelly, Jr.
K	Trevor Romaine	Fr.	Greyshirt delayed enrollment until this winter.	Max Johnson, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 179.5 ypg rushing (7th in Pac-10/89th NCAA), 228.4 passing (7th/79th), 407.9 total defense (8th/86th), 26.8 ppg (7th/64th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Taylor Henry	Jr.	Back issue slowed him down last season.	Blake Harrah, Jr.
DT	Kevin Frahm*	Sr.	Emotional leader of the defense; 3 sacks in '10.	Ben Motter, Sr.
DT	Dominic Glover*	Sr.	Moved from end to improve the interior.	Castro Masaniai, Jr.
DE	Rusty Fernando	Jr.	Newcomer hopes to ignite pass rush.	Scott Crichton, Fr.
LB	Cameron Collins	Sr.	Converted safety found a home at linebacker.	D.J. Welch, Fr.
LB	Rueben Robinson*	Jr.	The competition will continue here for starting job.	Tony Wilson, Jr.
LB	Michael Doctor	So.	Speed and hitting ability make him potent player.	Shiloah Te'o, Jr.
CB	Brandon Hardin*	Sr.	Took his lumps early; expects to shine this season.	Sean Martin, So.
CB	Jordan Poyer	Jr.	One of team's most athletic players ready to emerge.	Rashaad Reynolds, So.
S	Lance Mitchell*	Sr.	Veteran with a knack for making plays on the ball.	Ryan Murphy, Fr.
S	Anthony Watkins	Jr.	Has been groomed for an impact season.	Josh LaGrone, Jr.
P	Johnny Hekker*	Sr.	Entering his fourth season as the starting punter.	Keith Kostol, Fr.

*Returning Starter

BEAVERS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Justin Addie	OL	6-3	285	✪✪✪	Mesa, AZ	Skyline
All-region selection as a junior…Also played basketball in high school.						
Malcolm Agnew	RB	5-10	180	✪✪✪	Saint Louis, MO	DeSmet
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 45 running back.						
Elisinoa Aluesi	DE	6-6	243	✪✪	Portland, OR	Jefferson
First-team all-league and all-city selection as a senior…Also played basketball.						
Peter Ashton	QB	6-3	185	✪✪	Keller, TX	Faith Christian
Threw for 1,105 yards and 14 touchdowns and ran for 2,104 yards and 24 scores in 2010…Also participated in baseball, soccer and track.						
Lavonte Barnett	ATH	6-2	215	✪✪✪	Lancaster, CA	Paraclete
Rated as the No. 81 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 65 athlete.						
Brandon Bennett	DT	6-3	278	✪✪✪	Spring, TX	Spring
Chose Oregon State over Louisiana-Monroe, North Texas, Southeastern Louisiana and Utah State.						
Kellen Clute	TE	6-5	226	✪✪	Mead, WA	Mt Spokane
Had 21 catches for 325 yards and six touchdowns on offense, and 92 tackles and one interception on defense as a senior.						
Desmond Collins	DE	6-3	240	✪✪✪	Salt Lake City, UT	Highland
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 38 strongside defensive end.						
Brandin Cooks	WR	5-11	165	✪✪✪✪	Stockton, CA	Lincoln
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 28 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 26 wide receiver.						
Rusty Fernando	DE	6-3	232	✪✪✪	Glendale, AZ	Glendale C.C.
Had 17 sacks in junior college and 20 career sacks in high school… Enrolled at Oregon State in January.						
Rudolf Fifita	DE	6-4	260	✪✪	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Had 33 tackles, nine tackles for loss and five sacks in 2010…Recorded 19 tackles and three sacks in 2009.						
Akeem Gonzales	OL	6-4	240	✪✪✪	Mission Hills, CA	Bishop Alemany
Rated as the No. 67 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon State over Arizona, Arizona State, Washington, Washington State and others.						
Blake Harrah	DE	6-3	255	✪✪	Mission Viejo, CA	Saddleback C.C.
All-conference selection in 2010…Enrolled at Oregon State in January.						
d'Vante Henry	ATH	6-5	193	✪✪	Moore, OK	Southmoore
Recorded 65 tackles and five sacks as a senior…Helped lead team to 10-3 record in 2009.						
Darryl Jackson	OL	6-7	315	✪✪✪	Lakewood, CA	Mayfair
Originally signed with SMU…Enrolled at Oregon State in January.						
Jaswha James	DE	6-2	220	✪✪✪	Inglewood, CA	Inglewood
Recorded 70 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a senior…Chose Oregon State over Hawaii.						
Jabral Johnson	LB	6-2	218	✪✪✪	Lawton, OK	Lawton
Rated as the No. 21 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon State over Arizona, Texas Tech and Tulsa.						
Richard Mullaney	WR	6-3	185	✪✪✪	Thousand Oaks, CA	Thousand Oaks
Rated as the No. 69 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Had 122 receptions for 1,703 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior.						
Na'Alii Robins	DE	6-3	242	✪✪	Honolulu, HI	St. Louis
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Had 42 tackles and 11.5 sacks as a senior.						
Larry Scott	ATH	6-1	170	✪✪	Corona, CA	Centennial
Had 1,120 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 36 passes for 613 yards and seven TDs as a junior.						
Tyler Trosin	WR	5-11	185	✪✪✪	Folsom, CA	Folsom
Led team to 14-1 record as a senior…Caught 81 passes for 1,446 yards and 25 touchdowns as a junior.						
Storm Woods	RB	5-11	205	✪✪✪	Pflugerville, TX	Pflugerville
Rushed for 1,216 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior…Earned first-team all-district honors in 2010.						
Dylan Wynn	DE	6-3	234	✪✪✪	Concord, CA	De La Salle
Rated as the No. 33 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 25 strongside defensive end.						
Tyrequek Zimmerman	WR	6-0	186	✪✪✪	Lawton, OK	Lawton
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com… Caught 37 passes for 619 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior.						

A LOOK AT THE BEAVERS

RESULTS

5-7, 4-5

L	vs. TCU	21-30
W	LOUISVILLE	35-28
L	at Boise State	24-37
W	ARIZONA STATE	31-28
W	at Arizona	29-27
L	at Washington (2OT)	34-35
W	CALIFORNIA	35-7
L	at UCLA	14-17
L	WASHINGTON STATE	14-31
W	USC	36-7
L	at Stanford	0-38
L	OREGON	20-37

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
R. Katz	12	213	355	11	60.0	2401	18
C. Vaz	5	6	17	0	35.3	48	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Jac. Rodgers	12	256	1184	4.6	14	74	98.7
M. Wheaton	12	27	220	8.1	2	31	18.3
Jam. Rodgers	4	8	38	4.8	0	9	9.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Wheaton	12	55	675	12.3	4	48	56.2
Jac. Rodgers	12	44	287	6.5	3	28	23.9
A. Nichols	12	31	336	10.8	1	28	28.0

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: D. Roberson 88, S. Tuimaunei 85, L. Mitchell 74
Tackles for loss: B. Olander 11.5, S. Paea 10, two tied with 8
Sacks: S. Paea 6, G. Miller 5, D. Roberson 4
Interceptions: J. Dockery 4, L. Mitchell 2, J. Poyer 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	SACRAMENTO STATE	6-5
Sept. 10	at Wisconsin	11-2
Sept. 24	UCLA	4-8
Oct. 1	at Arizona State	6-6
Oct. 8	ARIZONA	7-6
Oct. 15	BYU	7-6
Oct. 22	vs. Washington State (Seattle)	2-10
Oct. 29	at Utah	10-3
Nov. 5	STANFORD	12-1
Nov. 12	at California	5-7
Nov. 19	WASHINGTON	7-6
Nov. 26	at Oregon	12-1

PLAYER PROFILE

Ryan Katz
Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

Beavers Expect QB To Make Big Jump

A wrist injury kept Ryan Katz out of scrimmage situations during spring practice, but the Oregon State quarterback made improvement and said he will be ready for the season.

That's good news for the Beavers, who need Katz to come back strong. They lost star running back Jacquizz Rodgers to the NFL Draft. The running game won't be as potent, so they'll lean on Katz.

"We are not worried about Ryan being ready to play," coach Mike Riley said. "And he had a really good spring. We expect him to make a significant jump."

Katz, who threw for 2,401 yards and 18 touchdowns last season, was limited in the offseason because of a fractured wrist in his throwing hand from the Dec. 4 Civil War game, when he banged his hand on a helmet in the middle of a throw. Katz finished against Oregon but needed minor surgery.

The junior spent the winter rehabbing the hand.

"Everything feels good," Katz said at the end of the spring. "I'm as close to 100 percent as I can be. ... I'm not feeling any pain. They just wanted me to take it easy."

Katz wasn't allowed to throw when the full offense went against the defense, and he didn't take a snap from under center so he could avoid aggravating the injury.

He missed practices at the start of spring ball and ended some workouts early so he could ice his wrist. Katz gradually added throwing to uncovered receivers and then with them covered. At the end, he threw in 7-on-7 drills.

For Katz, there was value in watching the backups, to see where they made mistakes. He listened to all the coaching corrections.

"Whenever you are not practicing you feel you are out of the loop," Katz said. "I've been doing some of the drills, but the scrimmaging with the team is a big part of it. But it has been good to sit back and watch everyone and get mental reps."

Star receiver James Rodgers and tight end Joe Halahuni are coming back from offseason surgeries, so Katz can't depend on them from the start. He'll need to spread the ball around to various receivers.

"I'm excited and ready to go," Katz said. "I'm looking forward to this fall. I want to be as prepared as I can."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR Markus Wheaton

If all-purpose WR James Rodgers (knee) was healthy, he'd be the team's MVP. Until then, Wheaton must be the big playmaker. ... He can run the fly sweep, return kicks and, most importantly, stretch the defense on long patterns. ... He had 55 catches for 675 yards and four touchdowns last season, when he also ran for 220 yards and two scores. ... Had two 100-yard receiving games, including a 10-catch, 137-yard performance vs. Oregon.

EMERGING STAR

QB Ryan Katz

Katz showed promise and a big-time arm in his first season as a starter last year. OSU has a trend of second seasons being the breakthrough year for quarterbacks. ... The junior threw for 2,401 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. ... His interceptions came in bunches. He had three games with three interceptions, and 11 for the season. ... His biggest game came against Arizona, when he completed 30 of 42 passes for 393 yards.

TOP NEWCOMER

DE Rusty Fernando

The mid-year junior college transfer stepped into a starting defensive end job in the spring. ... The Beavers rebuilt their defensive line with two JC players, and Fernando needs to ignite a pass rush. ... "We like his speed, and we think he can help us," coach Mike Riley said. "Rusty has a high motor and is a very good athlete." ... He had 17 career sacks at Glendale (Ariz.) Community College.

year — but he's more valuable with his ability to place the ball and deaden it deep in opponents' territory. He downed 25 punts inside the 20-yard line last season.

Freshman kicker Trevor Romaine takes over at placekicker. He set the California prep record for extra points with 217 and kicking points with 280. Romaine has hit a 52-yard field goal in a game and from 60 in practice. He impressed the Beavers with his consistency in the spring.

Jordan Poyer will handle the kickoff and punt-return duties until James Rogers comes back to full strength. Either one can take it all the way. Poyer averaged 27.8 yards on kickoff returns; Rodgers averaged 28.7.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Beavers play another challenging non-conference schedule. They open at home with Sacramento State before a daunting trip to Wisconsin. They wrap up the non-conference season against BYU in Game 6, a rematch of OSU's dismal 2009 Las Vegas Bowl.

With the Pac-12's new divisional format, the Beavers will miss USC and Colorado. A trip to Pac-12 newcomer Utah comes in Game 8. The Utes have been a recent non-conference opponent — the Beavers lost in Salt Lake City in 2008 — so this won't be completely new.

The annual Civil War against Oregon ends the regular season, as usual, which might have national implications for the Ducks.

A major concern for Oregon State is an early bye, which comes in Week 3, followed by 10 straight games.

— Cliff Kirkpatrick

USC TROJANS

For more coverage of the Trojans, visit usc.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kennedy Pola | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Monte Kiffin | **STADIUM:** L.A. Coliseum: 93,607

AT A GLANCE

2010:
8-5, 5-4 Pac-10 (T-3rd)

COACH:
Lane Kiffin — At USC: 8-5, 1 year; overall: 15-11, 2 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
13; 6 offense, 7 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Matt Barkley, RB Marc Tyler, WR Robert Woods, LT Matt Kalil, DE Nick Perry, DT Armond Armstead, LB Devon Kennard, FS T.J. McDonald

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
USC should be able to score points freely with so many talented skill players. Barkley-to-Woods will be the Trojans' calling card all season. The defense looked sharper in spring practice, especially on the line, with Perry primed for an impact season.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Look at the depth chart and notice an offensive line hampered by Pete Carroll's failure to recruit the position adequately in his final two seasons. If there are injuries along the line, USC will really be in trouble. Linebacker remains a sore spot for the second year in a row, unless Kennard is comfortable in the middle.

KEY LOSSES:
TB Allen Bradford, FB Stanley Havili, C Kris O'Dowd, OT Tyron Smith, WR Ronald Johnson, DT Jurrell Casey, LB Malcolm Smith, CB Shareece Wright

OVERVIEW:
Kiffin won eight games in year one, but lost to Washington, Oregon State and Notre Dame. He can't afford the appearance of underachievement again, especially with an athletic director (Pat Haden) who did not hire him. An improved defense and quick-strike offense should give USC a chance to do better this year, as long as someone blocks for Barkley.

Second Season Already a Critical One for Kiffin

Coach Lane Kiffin enters his second season with fans eager to see if last year's eight-win season was an aberration or a sign that winning is a lot harder today than in the Pete Carroll era.

If recruiting rankings were the guide, Kiffin's has kept USC among the nation's elite with two top five recruiting classes. But the Trojans are not even a definite preseason Top 25 team, and there are holes that Kiffin must address to field a Pac-12 contender.

USC's star power remains high with quarterback Matt Barkley and wide receiver Robert Woods. The defense offers its own marquee players with safety T.J. McDonald and defensive end Nick Perry.

The overall quality, however, is not to Carroll standards and that is why this could, already, be a make-or-break season for Kiffin. Athletic director Pat Haden has made nothing but positive statements about his coach, saying Kiffin will coach at USC for "many years to come."

If the Trojans struggle, things might change. This is where Kiffin's recruiting class will need to pay off. He could start two freshman offensive linemen and rely on other first-year players at wide receiver and linebacker.

The good news is that reasonable experience returns, and the Trojans play seven home games, their most since 2000. The bad news is only two starters return on the offensive line, which is the biggest concern.

Expect the defense to really decide the Trojans' season. A strong defensive line and surprising depth in the secondary should make it easy for a better performance than in 2010.

OFFENSE

Matt Barkley and Robert Woods were the focal point of every spring practice, and the Trojans will not lack big-play capability this season. The pair developed a bond in the offseason that should translate into repeated opportunities.

Woods has star potential and is willing to work for it. He carried his playbook around everywhere last season in order to learn the plays, and he avoided a freshman transition period because of his preparedness.

Question is, who will start opposite him?

Freshman George Farmer — Woods' former teammate at Serra High School in Gardena, Calif. — is a strong candidate. But senior Brandon Carswell enjoyed a successful spring and should be the early frontrunner.

The enigma is redshirt freshman Kyle Prater, who was hurt last season and missed almost all of spring practice recovering from foot surgery. Prater was one of the most highly touted receivers in the nation two years ago.

Then there are two receivers who left and returned. Sophomore Markeith Ambles quit the team last season but returned and participated in spring practice. Junior Brice Butler decided to transfer and skipped spring drills, but he returned to the team in May after considering schools like Tennessee-Chattanooga and Delaware.

The tailback-by-committee approach continues with Marc Tyler, Dillon Baxter, Curtis McNeal and D.J. Morgan all enjoying moments of success during spring drills but lacking consistency. Morgan's knee was still not 100 percent following surgery in high school, but he was still the fastest back.

Things are unsettled enough for incoming freshmen Javorious Allen and Amir Carlisle to get a look in training camp.

Tight end Rhett Ellison will also play some fullback and is a legitimate NFL player, according to Kiffin.

The offensive line lost three starters, and recruits Aundrey Walker and Cyrus Hobbi could end up starting. The rising star of the line is junior Matt Kalil, who is already listed as a top 10 pick in some

Nick Perry
Photo by Ric Tapia/Icon SMI

TROJANS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
57	Augusto Alonso	LB	6-2	220	Jr.	Omaha, NE
84	Markeith Ambles	WR	6-2	215	So.	McDonough, GA
51	Will Andrew	LB	6-2	225	So.	Huntington Beach
94	Armond Armstead	DE	6-5	295	Sr.	Sacramento
9	Taylor Ashton	CB	5-8	175	Sr.	Mission Viejo
40	John Auran	S	5-11	190	So.	Phoenix, AZ
18	Dion Bailey	LB	6-1	195	Fr.	Lakewood
7	Matt Barkley	QB	6-2	220	Jr.	Newport Beach
30	Brian Baucham	CB	5-11	175	Jr.	Torrance
28	Dillon Baxter	TB	6-0	195	So.	San Diego, CA
49	Robbie Boyer	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Newport Beach
16	Anthony Brown	CB	6-0	185	Fr.	Rialto
38	T.J. Bryant	CB	6-0	180	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
34	Tony Burnett	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Watts
44	Walter Calistro, Jr.	WR	5-9	170	So.	Kailua, HI
80	Brandon Carswell	WR	6-1	195	Sr.	Milpitas
87	Eric Childs	TE	6-4	230	Jr.	Cypress
72	Martin Coleman	OT	6-5	335	Sr.	Huntington Beach
29	Michael Cox	TE	6-4	230	Fr.	Bainbridge Island, WA
46	Ross Cumming	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Laguna Niguel
25	Nic Curry	WR	5-11	190	Sr.	West Covina
63	Giovanni Di Poalo	C	6-6	295	Fr.	Ventura
47	Kevin Downey, Jr.	TE	6-3	210	So.	West Hills
40	Rhett Ellison	TE	6-5	245	Sr.	Portola Valley
10	De'Von Flournoy	WR	6-0	185	So.	Studio City
28	Luke Freeman	LB	5-10	200	So.	Westlake Village
54	Chris Galippo	LB	6-2	250	Sr.	Corona
74	Jeremy Galten	OT-OG	6-4	285	Jr.	San Mateo
73	David Garness	OT	6-5	290	Jr.	Anchorage, AK
27	Kamaron Germany	TB	6-0	175	Fr.	Covina
24	Cody Gifford	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Greenwich, CT
67	Tyler Grady	DT	6-1	250	Sr.	Beverly Hills
77	Kevin Graf	OT	6-6	300	So.	Agoura Hills
81	Kevin Greene	DE	6-3	250	So.	Oakland
86	Xavier Grimble	TE	6-6	245	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
76	Nathan Guertler	OT	6-5	265	Fr.	Norco
25	Patrick Hall	S	6-0	190	Fr.	Oxnard
47	James Harbin	CB	5-10	175	Sr.	Los Angeles
98	DaJohn Harris	DT	6-4	305	Sr.	Inglewood
4	Torin Harris	CB	6-1	185	So.	Las Vegas, NV
48	Andre Heidari	PK	5-11	190	Fr.	Bakersfield
78	Khaled Holmes	OG	6-4	300	Jr.	Santa Ana
23	Shane Horton	LB	6-0	220	Sr.	Chatsworth
96	Wes Horton	DE	6-5	260	Jr.	Chatsworth
27	Marshall Jones	S	5-11	185	Sr.	Agoura Hills
75	Matt Kalil	OT	6-7	295	Jr.	Corona
14	Brett Kan	QB	6-2	205	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
52	Dallas Kelley	LB	6-0	230	Jr.	Norco
42	Devon Kennard	LB	6-3	250	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
6	Cody Kessler	QB	6-2	220	Fr.	Bakersfield
68	Patrick Kim	OG	6-3	305	Fr.	Chino Hills
92	Zack Kusnir	DE	6-5	255	Sr.	La Jolla
36	Jay Levin	PK	5-8	145	Fr.	Newport Beach
18	John Manoogian	QB	6-0	215	Jr.	Los Angeles
50	Abe Markowitz	C	6-1	285	Jr.	Hawaii Kai, HI
59	John Martinez	OG	6-2	290	So.	Murray, UT
19	Drew McAilister	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Danville
61	Peter McBride	SNP	6-2	210	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ
7	T.J. McDonald	S	6-3	205	Jr.	Fresno, CA
37	Tim McGuigan	WR	6-0	165	Sr.	Plainsboro, NJ
46	Craig McMahon	PK	6-2	180	Fr.	Bakersfield
22	Curtis McNeal	TB	5-7	185	Jr.	Los Angeles
34	D.J. Morgan	TB	6-0	175	Fr.	Van Nuys
35	Kyle Negrete	P	6-0	210	Jr.	Fresno
16	Anthony Neyer	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	Palm Desert
41	Allen Noble	CB	6-0	185	Sr.	Denver, CO
41	Kevin Noble	WR	6-2	185	Sr.	Vista
8	Nick Perry	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Detroit, MI
62	Chris Pousson	SNP	6-4	240	Sr.	San Diego
21	Kyle Prater	WR	6-5	210	Fr.	Maywood, IL
10	Hayes Pullard	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Inglewood
50	Austin Rittenour	LB	6-0	190	Jr.	Conchord
21	Nickell Robey	CB	5-8	165	So.	Frostproof, FL
26	Boomer Roepke	CB	5-8	185	Sr.	Reno, NV
49	William Rojas	CB	5-10	175	Sr.	Granada Hills
22	Cody Romness	S	5-11	175	Jr.	Palm Desert
17	Emon Saee	QB	6-2	200	Jr.	Calabasas
15	Jesse Scroggins	QB	6-3	205	Fr.	Lakewood
8	Reed Semcken	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	San Marino
48	Hunter Simmons	FB	6-1	245	So.	Pasadena
53	Marquis Simmons	LB	6-1	215	So.	Compton
38	Cody Skene	WR	5-9	165	So.	Oak Park
29	Jawanza Starling	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL
37	Samuel Sulam	S	5-10	185	Fr.	Glendale
82	Randall Telfer	TE	6-4	230	Fr.	Rancho Cucamonga
89	Christian Thomas	TE	6-3	240	So.	Palmdale
44	Christian Tupou	DT	6-2	290	Sr.	Sacramento
26	Marc Tyler	TB	5-11	230	Sr.	Lancaster
31	Chidozie Uche	CB	5-10	180	Jr.	London, England
90	George Uko	DT	6-4	300	Fr.	Chino
31	Soma Vainuku	FB	6-2	255	Fr.	Eureka
36	Simione Vehikite	LB	6-0	220	So.	Kapolei, HI
13	Max Wittek	QB	6-4	205	Fr.	Newport Beach
2	Robert Woods	WR	6-1	185	So.	Carson
24	Demetrius Wright	S	6-1	205	So.	Corona
39	James Wright	WR	5-10	175	Jr.	Culver City
79	Peter Yobo	OT	6-5	235	Sr.	Brunswick, NJ

NOTEBOOK

USC will be ineligible for a bowl game and the Pac-12 championship this season after the school's appeal of NCAA sanctions was rejected in May.

The Trojans will end up serving the second year of their postseason ban, and they will lose 30 scholarships over three years, starting in 2012. USC will be able to have only 75 players on scholarship — not the usual 85 — over that three-year period.

The NCAA handed down sanctions in the summer of 2010 for violations that occurred regarding former running back Reggie Bush.

- Although redshirt freshman **Jesse Scroggins** finished spring practice as the No. 2 quarterback, coach **Lane Kiffin** said the position is still open because true freshmen **Cody Kessler** and **Max Wittek** did not get enough snaps to properly evaluate them.

- The Trojans will practice this fall at 7:30 a.m., borrowing a page from how Oregon coach Chip Kelly runs his program. Kiffin said he is not copying the Ducks, saying he wanted to practice in the morning in his first year, but couldn't because of class conflicts.

USC players were not thrilled with the idea. Neither was New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, who attended a spring practice.

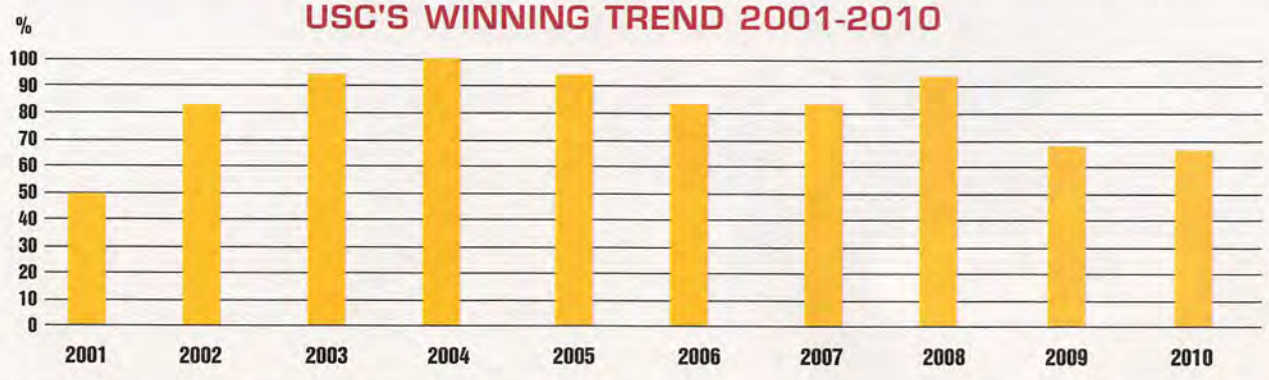
"It's early," Sanchez said. "I like to get a little lunch. Maybe a nap. And then practice."

- USC considered wearing an alternate uniform for the UCLA game but decided against it following a fan backlash. One version featured cardinal jerseys, cardinal pants and black helmets. Sources said Kiffin liked the idea of an extra uniform to compete with Oregon, which offers a variety of uniforms.

- Freshman tight end **Xavier Grimble** looked like he might balloon into an offensive tackle when he entered USC last year at 265 pounds. But Grimble was down to 245 in the spring and is going to back up tight end **Rhett Ellison** this season.

- Freshman defensive end **Greg Townsend Jr.** is the son of four-time All-Pro defensive end Greg Townsend, who played for the Oakland Raiders and Philadelphia Eagles. Walk-on wide receiver **Cody Gifford** is the son of former USC player Frank Gifford and TV personality Kathie Lee Gifford.

USC'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



mock drafts. Junior guard Khaled Holmes will switch to center.

They are going to need to help the other three starters because spring was a near-disaster for the unit.

"It's clearly our biggest issue going into the season," Kiffin said.

DEFENSE

The biggest change will be in philosophy as Kiffin allows the Trojans to tackle in practices. Sounds simple, but last year he banned it to prevent injuries with a depleted roster. He ended up getting burned when USC failed to wrap up opponents, especially in the final two minutes.

"It was hard for us to suddenly be physical on game day after we weren't during the week," safety T.J. McDonald said. "We could definitely tell the difference in the spring."

Another advantage is a full year playing in coordinator Monte Kiffin's system.

There were questions last season about how familiar the elder Kiffin was against the spread offense, which he never saw in the NFL and rarely saw in a season at Tennessee. There should be no questions this season.

The Trojans are deepest on the defensive line with a trio of experienced ends: Armond Armstead, Wes Horton and Nick Perry.

Armstead missed spring drills because of a possible heart condition but was cleared to work out in April; he probably will return to defensive tackle. Defensive tackle Christian Tupou, who missed 2010 with a knee injury, is back to reclaim his starting spot.

Redshirt freshman George Uko was one of the stars of the spring and definitely will be in the rotation at tackle.

The trouble spot is linebacker, where injuries and inexperience have created doubt. Devon Kennard starts at middle linebacker after struggling there last year. Chris Galippo moves to the weakside after three years in the middle.

Just about anybody could start at strongside linebacker, although converted safety Dion Bailey and Marquis Simmons shared the spot in the spring. Shane Horton is in the mix, too. Talented freshman Hayes Pullard might be also, if he is switched from the weak side.

A wildcard is recruit Lamar Dawson, who will open at middle linebacker but could audition at all three positions.

The secondary is led by McDonald, who could lead the team in tackles again as he often positions himself near the line of scrimmage.

Sophomore Nickell Robey is only 5-8 but was arguably the Trojans' best cornerback last season. Tony Burnett, a long jumper who walked-on last season and became a reserve safety, switched to cornerback in the spring and immediately won a starting job.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Inexperience is everywhere as true freshmen handle punting and kicking duties.

Andre Heidari enrolled in the spring semester but was inconsistent. Punter Kris

Robert Woods
Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 189.3 ypg rushing (3rd in Pac-10/25th NCAA), 242.2 passing (5th/41th), 431.5 total offense (4th/26th), 31.0 ppg (4th/37th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Matt Barkley*	Jr.	Time for his performance to live up to hype.	Jesse Scroggins, Fr.
RB	Marc Tyler*	Sr.	Health remains an issue but did gain 913 yards.	Dillon Baxter, So.
FB	Soma Vainuku	Fr.	Must replace Stanley Havili with no experience here.	Charles Burks, Fr.
WR	Robert Woods*	So.	He cannot get too many touches in games this season.	De'von Flournoy, So.
WR	Brandon Carswell	Sr.	Incoming freshman George Farmer will also get a look.	Kyle Prater, Fr.
TE	Rhett Ellison*	Sr.	Can also play fullback and is a key to the offense.	Xavier Grimble, Fr.
LT	Matt Kalil*	Jr.	The one line position where Lane Kiffin is not worried.	David Garness, Jr.
LG	John Martinez	So.	Just about anyone could really start at this spot.	Giovanni Di Poalo, Fr.
C	Khaled Holmes*	Jr.	Played guard the past two years, but USC needs center.	Abe Markowitz, Jr.
RG	Martin Coleman	Sr.	Injured most of career and needs to fend off Hobbi.	Cyrus Hobbi, Fr.
RT	Aundrey Walker	Fr.	Yep ... a true freshman could start on the line.	Kevin Graf, So.
K	Andre Heidari	Fr.	Reached end zone on 53 of 65 kickoffs as HS senior.	Craig McMahon, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 140.5 ypg rushing (6th in Pac-10/49th NCAA), 259.5 passing (10th/109th), 400.1 total defense (7th/84th), 26.7 ppg (6th/63rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Wes Horton	Jr.	Part-time starter slowed by back injury last season.	Kevin Greene, So.
NT	Christian Tupou	Sr.	Two-year starter; redshirted in 2010 after knee injury.	DaJohn Harris, Sr.*
DT	Armond Armstead*	Sr.	Chest pains sidelined him during spring ball.	George Uko, Fr.
DE	Nick Perry*	Jr.	Talented end amassed 12 sacks in two seasons.	DeVante Wilson, Fr.
LB	Chris Galippo	Sr.	Makes unexpected move from MLB to weakside.	Hayes Pullard, Fr.
LB	Devon Kennard*	Jr.	Should be better after learning to play middle in 2010.	Will Andrew, So.
LB	Marquis Simmons	So.	Freshman Tre Madden could also sneak in here.	Dion Bailey, Fr.
CB	Nickell Robey*	So.	Led team with four interceptions as true freshman.	Anthony Brown, Fr.
CB	Tony Burnett	Jr.	One-time walk-on quickly won starting spot in spring.	Torin Harris, So.
SS	Marshall Jones	Sr.	Highly competitive position with Jones slightly ahead.	Demetrius Wright, So.
FS	T.J. McDonald*	Jr.	If USC has a defensive star, McDonald is closest to it.	Jawanza Starling, Jr.*
P	Kris Albarado	Fr.	Averaged 45.3 yards per punt in high school.	Kyle Negrete, Jr.

*Returning Starter

TROJANS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Kris Albarado	K	6-0	180	★★	Lake Charles, LA	St. Louis
Rated as the nation's No. 4 kicker by Rivals.com...Chose USC over Northwestern.						
Javorius Allen	ATH	6-1	210	★★★	Tallahassee, FL	Lincoln
Rated as the No. 69 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 23 athlete.						
Victor Blackwell	WR	6-1	186	★★★★	Santa Ana, CA	Mater Dei
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 14 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 18 wide receiver...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Charles Burks	DE	6-1	230	★★★	Huntington Beach, CA	Edison
Rated as the No. 41 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 weakside defensive end.						
Amir Carlisle	RB	5-10	181	★★★★	Sunnyvale, CA	Kings Academy
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 9 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 4 all-purpose back...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Lamar Dawson	LB	6-2	230	★★★★	Danville, KY	Boyle County
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Kentucky...Rated as the nation's No. 3 inside linebacker...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
George Farmer	WR	6-2	192	★★★★★	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 1 wide receiver...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Jeremy Galten	OL	6-4	290	★★★	San Mateo, CA	College of San Mateo
Chose USC over Arizona, San Jose State, Nevada, Utah State and others...Enrolled at USC in January.						
David Garness	OL	6-5	290	★★★	San Francisco, CA	City College of S.F.
Rated as the nation's No. 22 junior college prospect by Rivals.com.						
Andre Heidari	K	5-11	185	★★★	Bakersfield, CA	Stockdale
Rated as the nation's No. 2 kicker by Rivals.com...Chose USC over Fresno State and Nebraska.						
Ryan Henderson	DB	5-10	165	★★★	Moreno Valley, CA	Rancho Verde
Rated as the No. 57 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 45 cornerback.						
Christian Heyward	DT	6-2	269	★★★★	San Diego, CA	Point Loma
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 10 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 6 defensive tackle...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Cyrus Hobbi	OL	6-4	285	★★★★	Scottsdale, AZ	Saguaro
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Arizona...Rated as the nation's No. 4 offensive guard.						
Dallas Kelley	LB	6-0	225	★★★	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Chaffey C.C.
Had 74 tackles and four sacks in 2009...Chose USC over Idaho, Kent State and New Mexico State.						
Cody Kessler	QB	6-1	208	★★★★	Bakersfield, CA	Centennial
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 6 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 2 pro-style quarterback...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Marqise Lee	ATH	6-1	187	★★★★	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 3 athlete...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Tre Madden	LB	6-0	215	★★★★	Mission Viejo, CA	Mission Viejo
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 8 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 6 outside linebacker...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Marcus Martin	OL	6-3	357	★★★	Los Angeles, CA	Crenshaw
Rated as the No. 68 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 28 offensive guard.						
Peter McBride	OL	6-1	215	★★	Scottsdale, AZ	Chaparral
One of the nation's top longsnapper prospects...Enrolled at USC in January.						
Junior Pomee	WR	6-3	237	★★★★	Moreno Valley, CA	Rancho Verde
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 23 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 23 wide receiver...Participated in the NUC All-World Gridiron Classic.						
Anthony Sarao	LB	6-1	220	★★★★	Absecon, NJ	Holy Spirit
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in New Jersey...Rated as the nation's No. 8 outside linebacker...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
J.R. Tavai	ATH	6-2	260	★★★	Redondo Beach, CA	Mira Costa
Rated as the nation's No. 46 athlete by Rivals.com.						
Cody Temple	DT	6-3	280	★★★	Bakersfield, CA	Liberty
Chose USC over Colorado State, Nevada, New Mexico State, Portland State, San Jose State and Washington State.						
Greg Townsend Jr.	DE	6-4	242	★★★★	Beverly Hills, CA	Beverly Hills
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 5 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 5 strongside defensive end...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Aundrey Walker	OL	6-5	355	★★★★	Cleveland, OH	Glenville Academic
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Ohio...Rated as the nation's No. 1 offensive guard...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Isiah Wiley	DB	6-1	185	★★★	Yuma, AZ	Arizona Western C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 33 junior college prospect by Rivals.com.						
DeVante Wilson	DE	6-4	230	★★★	Corona, CA	Corona
Rated as the No. 38 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 20 weakside defensive end.						
Max Wittek	QB	6-4	215	★★★★	Santa Ana, CA	Mater Dei
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 3 pro-style quarterback...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Antwaun Woods	DT	6-1	322	★★★★	Woodland Hills, CA	Taft
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 29 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 22 defensive tackle...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						

A LOOK AT THE TROJANS

RESULTS

8-5, 5-4

W	at Hawaii	49-36
W	VIRGINIA	17-14
W	at Minnesota	32-21
W	at Washington State	50-16
L	WASHINGTON	31-32
L	at Stanford	35-37
W	CALIFORNIA	48-14
L	OREGON	32-53
W	ARIZONA STATE	34-33
W	at Arizona	24-21
L	at Oregon State	7-36
L	NOTRE DAME	16-20
W	at UCLA	28-14

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
M. Barkley	12	236	377	12	62.6	2791	26
M. Mustain	13	41	73	1	56.2	348	1

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Tyler	13	171	913	5.3	9	44	70.2
A. Bradford	12	110	794	7.2	5	73	66.2
C.J. Gable	13	53	253	4.8	1	20	19.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Woods	13	65	792	12.2	6	61	60.9
R. Johnson	13	64	692	10.8	8	53	53.2
S. Havili	13	32	396	12.4	2	58	30.5

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: T.J. McDonald 89, M. Smith 78, S. Wright 73
Tackles for loss: J. Casey 11, M. Smith 8, N. Perry 7.5
Sacks: J. Casey 4.5, W. Horton 4, N. Perry 4
Interceptions: N. Robey 4, T.J. McDonald 3, C. Galippo 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	MINNESOTA	3-9
Sept. 10	UTAH	10-3
Sept. 17	SYRACUSE	8-5
Sept. 24	at Arizona State	6-6
Oct. 1	ARIZONA	7-6
Oct. 13	at California	5-7
Oct. 22	at Notre Dame	8-5
Oct. 29	STANFORD	12-1
Nov. 5	at Colorado	5-7
Nov. 12	WASHINGTON	7-6
Nov. 19	at Oregon	12-1
Nov. 26	UCLA	4-8

PLAYER PROFILE

Matt Barkley
Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

Patience Could Be Virtue for Barkley

This should be a breakout season for USC junior quarterback Matt Barkley, so one of his top priorities is to be a leader and keep a lid on his frustrations.

For two years, Barkley's big issue was forcing passes when he became impatient. Now, he wants to emulate the veterans who helped him when he was a freshman.

"It's important to just keep your cool and realize that these are young guys, and you have to kind of coach them," Barkley said. "I was probably the same way when I was younger."

Barkley is still prone to moments when he loses his cool.

"You want him to be aggressive, but you want him to be very intelligent in how he's being aggressive," Kiffin said.

During spring drills, Barkley became frustrated with walk-on wide receivers who ran the wrong pass routes. He was not afraid to express his feelings during practices.

"I'm at the point where I know what's going on and know my reads," Barkley said. "And then someone else messes up and it throws me off."

Kiffin said he noticed this being a problem for Barkley in 2010, but he sees progress from his star quarterback.

"He's had an issue with that since he's been here," Kiffin said. "It's something we think we improved on last year, and hopefully we'll improve on it in year three.

"What happens is when guys get frustrated, whether it's because of them playing poorly, the players around them playing poorly or the score at that time, guys tend to make more errors. That's what you have to fight through."

Barkley threw for 26 touchdowns and 12 interceptions last year, an improvement over his freshman stats of 15 touchdown passes and 14 interceptions.

No matter his numbers in 2011, he could still be a top draft pick — he was listed as a top-five selection for 2012 in several mock drafts. He said he does not know yet if he will turn pro early.

One thing scouts will be watching: Barkley needs to improve in crunch time. He completed 62.6 percent of his passes overall, but hit on only 45 percent in the fourth quarter.

"It's interesting," Kiffin said. "I thought in the second quarter, there were end-of-game scenarios that he was better at than in the fourth quarter. We're not calling any different plays. He's just got to continue to mature."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR Robert Woods

Woods was the Pac-10's Offensive Freshman of the Year after leading the team with 65 receptions for 792 yards and six touchdowns. ... His 1,817 all-purpose yards was a USC freshman record. ... Woods already ranks seventh all-time in kickoff return yardage (971). ... Caught 12 passes for 224 yards and three touchdowns against Stanford. He was 36 yards shy of the USC game record.

EMERGING STAR

DT George Uko

Uko quickly secured a starting spot during spring drills when senior Armond Armstead sat out because of chest pains. ... Even when Armstead returns, Uko's spring makes him part of the rotation. ... He had seven tackles, with three for loss, in one of the spring scrimmages. ... Was the team's scout team Defensive Player of the Year when he redshirted last season. ... Was a *Parade* All-American at Don Lugo High in Chino, Calif.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Lamar Dawson

He was named Kentucky Mr. Football, but what really turned heads is that Lane Kiffin bestowed No. 55 upon him, which is only given to special players at USC. ... Junior Seau, Willie McGinest and Chris Claiborne previously have worn that number. ... He made 502 tackles in his high school career, including 158 as a senior. He also had four interceptions and three forced fumbles. Also ran for 686 yards and 15 TDs. ... Earned *Parade* All-America honors.

Albarado averaged 45.3 yards per attempt in high school; if he comes close to that Kiffin will be thrilled.

Special teams coach John Baxter is given a healthy amount of time in practices, so results are expected. USC is also expected to be strong on its punt and kickoff teams because of Baxter's status within the program. Robert Woods will return kickoffs and possibly punts.

Quarterback Matt Barkley will be the holder this season, which means the Trojans might try even more two-point conversions. Last year, Kiffin was criticized early in the season for attempting too many two-point conversions, although the Trojans improved as the season progressed and converted 6 of 11 attempts.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

USC opens with three homes games — Minnesota, Utah (in the Pac-12 debut for the Utes) and Syracuse.

The next game is a tricky trip to Tempe to face Arizona State, which lost to the Trojans by a point last season in Los Angeles and should be better.

The season might hinge on the trip to Notre Dame because it is one of only five road games and probably the toughest until the end of the year. Last season's loss to the Irish ended the Trojans' eight-game winning streak in the series. An added twist: This will be the first night kickoff in South Bend since 1990.

USC gets recent-nemesis Washington at home again before the unenviable trip to Oregon in the penultimate game.

— Scott Wolf

STANFORD CARDINAL

For more coverage of the Cardinal, visit stanford.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pep Hamilton **DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS:** Derek Mason, Jason Tarver **STADIUM:** Stanford: 50,000

AT A GLANCE

2010:
12-1, 8-1 Pac-10 (2nd)

COACH:
David Shaw — At Stanford and overall: 1st year

RETURNING STARTERS:
12; 5 offense, 6 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Andrew Luck, RB Stepfan Taylor, TE Coby Fleener, LT Jonathan Martin, RG David DeCastro, LB Shayne Skov, LB Chase Thomas, SS Delano Howell

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Luck has the ability to make plays with his arm, legs and mind. The Cardinal's power running game with Taylor fuels a devastating play-action game. DeCastro and Martin are two of the best linemen in the country. The defense is fundamentally sound and has a bevy of playmakers.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Complacency, for starters. There's also the not-insignificant matter of replacing three starters on the offensive line, including All-American center Chase Beeler. Big-play WR Chris Owusu is injury prone. The defense may be vulnerable up the middle. Cornerback is a perpetual concern for the Cardinal.

KEY LOSSES:
FB/LB Owen Marecic, C Chase Beeler, WR Doug Baldwin, WR Ryan Whalen, DE Brian Bulcke, DT Sione Fua, DE Thomas Keiser, CB Richard Sherman

OVERVIEW:
One era ends, another continues. The Cardinal lost coach Jim Harbaugh but retained Luck, which means it has a chance to compete for the Pac-12 championship and another Bowl Championship Series game. Shaw's challenge is to keep Stanford focused in the face of unprecedented expectations.

With Luck, Stanford Could Be Head Toward the Rose Bowl

Perhaps no college football team experienced a busier single week last winter than Stanford.

Three days after winning the Orange Bowl, all-everything quarterback Andrew Luck thrilled Cardinal fans by announcing he would shun the NFL Draft and return to school for his junior season.

The next day, their fear became reality when coach Jim Harbaugh announced he was moving on, to the San Francisco 49ers.

The wild week set the framework for the 2011 season. Luck's return makes Stanford a favorite in the Pac-12 and a threat for the national championship. He is, after all, the best player in the game at the most important position in the sport — the Heisman Trophy favorite and presumptive first pick in the 2012 NFL Draft.

But without Harbaugh, who elevated Stanford from 1-11 to 12-1 in just four years, the Cardinal is not the overwhelming favorite it might otherwise have been.

Harbaugh's replacement is David Shaw, a former Cardinal player and Harbaugh's offensive coordinator. His challenge will be to maintain the continuity established during the Cardinal's remarkable rise, while keeping the players focused after the most successful season in school history.

Neither task will be easy.

Shaw had to revamp the coaching staff after several key assistants followed Harbaugh to the 49ers. The Cardinal also suffered substantial personnel losses: Two-way star Owen Marecic is gone, as are both starting receivers, three-fifths of the stellar offensive line, two-thirds of the defensive front and the top cornerback.

The search for capable replacements comes at a time of unprecedented expectations for the program. Not since 1970 has Stanford entered a season ranked in the Top 10. Back then, the quarterback was Jim Plunkett — the program's lone Heisman Trophy winner. He responded to the pressure by leading Stanford to a Rose Bowl victory.

Will Luck do the same?

OFFENSE

Stanford's quarterback issues are minor compared to most teams, but they exist nonetheless: Of the handful of players competing for the backup job, sophomore Josh Nunes is the most experienced — and he has thrown a whopping two career passes.

Luck does everything exceptionally well. But one of his greatest attributes is often overlooked by fans and media, although not by opposing coaches: The ability to decipher defenses and audible Stanford out of bad plays in those crucial seconds before the snap.

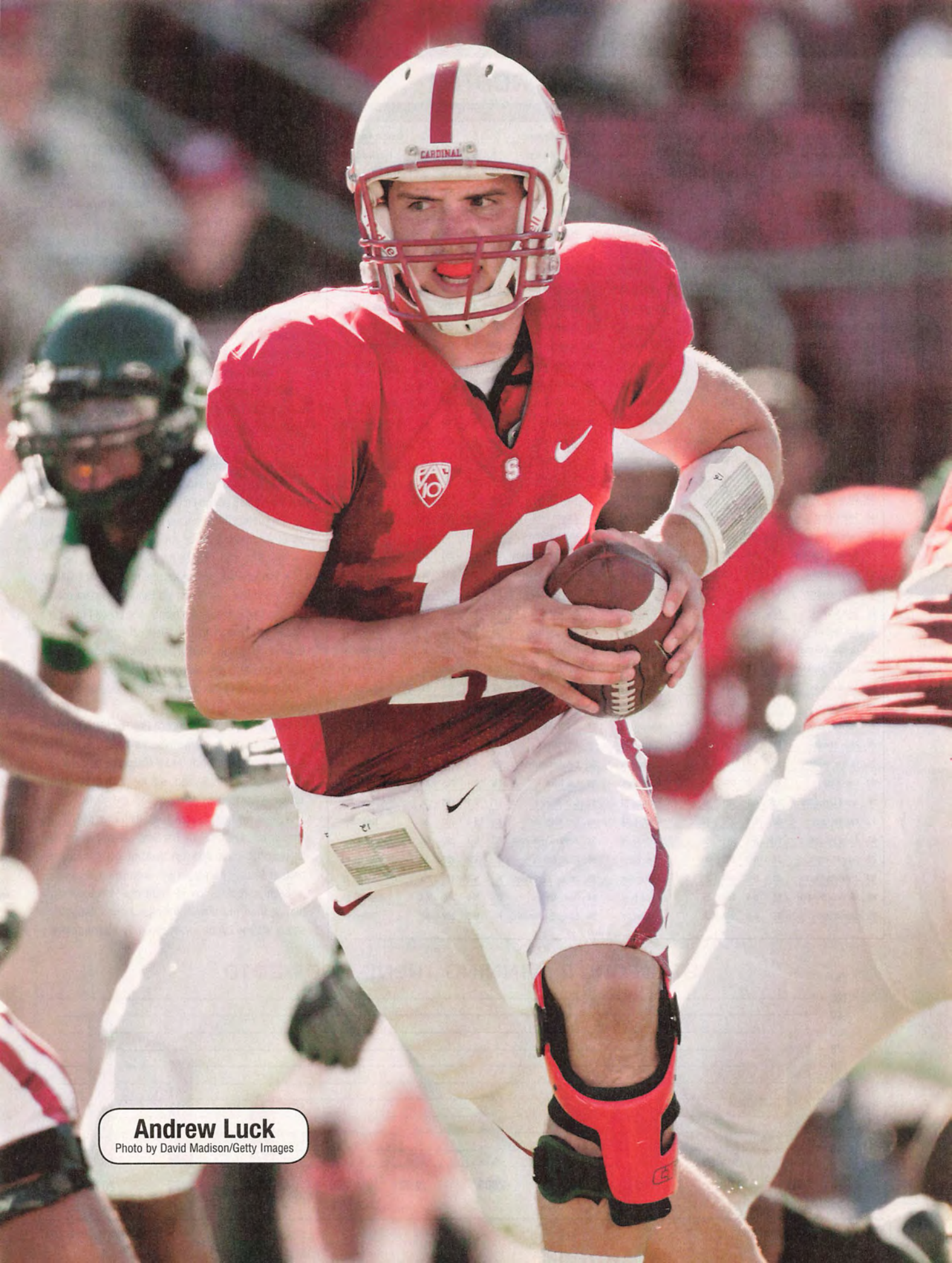
He always puts Stanford in optimal position to gain positive yards, hence making everyone around him better.

Luck will work behind a line that lost three starters but returns two first-team all-conference performers in left tackle Jonathan Martin and right guard David DeCastro. They're the heart of Stanford's power running game and one reason the Cardinal allowed only six sacks last season.

Sam Schwartzstein is the favorite to take over for All-American center Chase Beeler, while Tyler Mabry and Kevin Danser are the top candidates at right tackle and left guard, respectively.

Stanford's group of tight ends is so deep and talented that Coby Fleener, who caught three touchdown passes in the Orange Bowl, is not guaranteed to start. He'll be challenged by Zach Ertz and Levine Toilolo, who was the 2010 starter, but injured his knee in the season opener.

There are also a bevy of options at tailback, starting with Stepfan Taylor, who rushed for 1,137 yards last season. Sophomore Anthony Wilkerson, who averaged 4.6 yards per carry last fall, is the top backup and a star in the making. Then there's former starter Jeremy Stewart, who returned from injury to break off a 60-yard touchdown run in the Orange Bowl.



Andrew Luck
Photo by David Madison/Getty Images

CARDINAL SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
15	Usua Amanam	CB	5-10	184	Jr.	Fremont
91	Henry Anderson	DE/DT	6-6	258	So.	Atlanta, GA
27	Johnson Bademosi	CB	6-1	197	Sr.	Silver Spring, MD
66	Matt Bentler	OG	6-5	292	Sr.	Bettendorf, IA
57	Max Bergen	ILB	6-2	230	Sr.	East Stroudsburg, PA
28	Harold Bernard	CB	6-2	186	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
75	Dillon Bonnell	OG	6-4	283	So.	Highlands Ranch, CO
6	Terrence Brown	CB	6-1	178	Jr.	Torrance
31	Barry Browning	CB	6-1	168	So.	Everman, TX
5	Devon Carrington	FS	6-1	192	So.	Chandler, AZ
47	Juan Castellanos	K	6-1	175	So.	Miami, FL
23	Jackson Cummings	RB	5-9	195	So.	Rocklin
14	Darren Daniel	WR	6-4	196	So.	Phenix City, AL
76	Kevin Danser	OG	6-6	288	Jr.	Saratoga
42	Alex Debniak	OLB	6-2	233	Sr.	Hudsonville, MI
52	David DeCastro	OG	6-5	310	Sr.	Bellevue, WA
83	Davis Dudchock	TE	6-4	226	So.	Birmingham, AL
86	Zach Ertz	TE	6-6	249	Jr.	Alamo
50	Brent Etiz	ILB	6-1	215	Jr.	Clovis
24	Quinn Evans	CB	5-10	177	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
44	John Flacco	WR	6-2	180	So.	Audubon, NJ
82	Coby Fleener	TE	6-6	244	Sr.	Lemont, IL
73	Cameron Fleming	OT	6-6	289	So.	Houston, TX
45	Andrew Fowler	LS	6-2	232	Sr.	San Diego
37	Chris Gaertner	CB	6-1	183	So.	Atherton
25	Tyler Gaffney	RB	6-1	216	Jr.	San Diego
49	Ben Gardner	DE	6-4	251	Jr.	Mequon, WI
2	Corey Gatewood	WR	5-11	188	Sr.	Randolph, MA
9	Brandon Gottfried	WR	6-5	210	So.	Orange Beach, AL
56	Jacob Gowan	DT/DE	6-3	284	Jr.	Santa Rosa
38	David Green	P	6-1	205	Sr.	Mission Viejo
7	Joe Hemschoot	ILB	6-1	215	So.	Lakewood, CO
85	Ryan Hewitt	FB	6-4	238	Jr.	Denver, CO
26	Delano Howell	SS	5-11	198	Sr.	Newhall
80	Sam Knapp	WR	6-3	208	Jr.	Menlo Park
35	Jarek Lancaster	ILB	6-1	227	Jr.	Helotes, TX
12	Andrew Luck	QB	6-4	235	Sr.	Houston, TX
45	Blake Lueders	OLB	6-5	241	So.	Zionsville, IN
77	Tyler Mabry	OT	6-7	292	Sr.	San Diego
55	Jonathan Martin	OT	6-6	304	Sr.	Los Angeles
98	Matthew Masifilo	DE	6-3	280	Sr.	Ewa Beach, HI
90	Josh Mauro	DE	6-6	264	Jr.	Hurst, TX
61	Conor McFadden	C	6-3	265	So.	West St. Paul, MN
10	Geoff Meinken	FB	6-4	274	Jr.	Lynnwood, WA
47	Myles Muagututia	SS	6-2	206	Jr.	Oceanside
93	Trent Murphy	OLB	6-6	246	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
20	Keanu Nelson	WR	5-11	168	So.	Tucson, AZ
7	Brett Nottingham	QB	6-4	210	So.	Alamo
6	Josh Nunes	QB	6-4	211	Jr.	Upland
10	David Olson	QB	6-3	228	So.	Columbia, SC
22	Kyle Olugbode	FS	6-1	195	So.	San Jose
81	Chris Owusu	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	Westlake Village
58	David Parry	DT	6-2	295	So.	Marion, IA
21	Jamal-Rashad Patterson	WR	6-3	205	Jr.	McDonough, GA
13	Robbie Picazo	QB	6-3	228	Jr.	Santa Margarita
96	Eddie Plantaric	DE	6-5	277	So.	Orangevale
29	Ed Reynolds	SS	6-2	194	So.	Orange Park, FL
14	Ben Rhyne	P	6-2	195	So.	Charlotte, NC
84	Jemari Roberts	WR	6-3	212	Jr.	Long Beach
64	Sam Schwartzstein	C	6-3	284	Sr.	Southlake, TX
30	Ricky Seale	RB	5-9	192	So.	Escondido
15	Brent Seals	SS	6-1	189	Jr.	Chino Hills
11	Shayne Skov	ILB	6-3	243	Jr.	Piedmont
4	Michael Spanos	RB	5-10	185	Jr.	Stockton
99	Terrence Stephens	DT	6-2	295	Jr.	Gaithersburg, MD
34	Jeremy Stewart	RB	6-1	218	Sr.	Baton Rouge, LA
29	Andrew Stutz	RB	6-1	202	Jr.	Scottsdale, AZ
17	AJ Tarpley	ILB	6-2	221	So.	Plymouth, MN
33	Stepfan Taylor	RB	5-11	208	Jr.	Mansfield, TX
4	Drew Terrell	WR	5-11	180	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
44	Chase Thomas	OLB	6-4	239	Sr.	Marietta, GA
3	Michael Thomas	FS	5-11	182	Sr.	Houston, TX
11	Levine Toilolo	TE	6-8	263	Jr.	La Mesa
18	Jeff Trojan	WR	6-3	194	So.	Huntington Beach
18	Alex Turner	OLB	6-1	241	So.	Las Vegas, NV
50	Cole Underwood	OG	6-4	281	So.	Denton, TX
36	Lee Ward	FB	6-1	245	So.	Chesterfield, MO
17	Griff Whalen	WR	6-1	185	Sr.	Sylvania, OH
46	Eric Whitaker	K	5-9	182	Jr.	San Diego
32	Anthony Wilkerson	RB	6-1	220	So.	Foothill Ranch
65	Khalil Wilkes	C	6-3	287	Jr.	Teaneck, NJ
19	Jordan Williamson	K	5-11	170	So.	Austin, TX
54	David Yankey	OT	6-5	302	So.	Roswell, GA
36	Daniel Zychlinski	P	6-3	207	Sr.	Tampa, FL

NOTEBOOK

David Shaw has big shoes to fill — big shoes, big confidence, big charisma, big ego, big intensity. Jim Harbaugh brought all that to Stanford while elevating the program to national prominence.

Since the moment he took over for Harbaugh on Jan. 13, Shaw has made it clear that he's different — not better or worse, just different.

The former Stanford player is not as outwardly intense, not as brash and confrontational, as his predecessor. But ...

"Deep down, he's a very competitive individual," linebacker **Shayne Skov** said. "He might not be as vocal, but he loves to compete. I'm sure he'll find the pieces to make the program work."

• Shaw, who played for Stanford under former coaches Denny Green and Bill Walsh, is the son of longtime NFL assistant Willie Shaw. He spent several years coaching in the NFL, then served under Harbaugh for five seasons at the University of San Diego and at Stanford.

He was a candidate for the San Jose State job in 2009 but always had designs on leading his alma mater.

"I went into the interview process with the mindset that I wanted this to be my last coaching interview — ever," he said. "That's my goal."

• Stanford lost several key members of its coaching staff. Defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, assistant coach-offense Greg Roman and offensive line coach Tim Drevno followed Harbaugh to the 49ers. Just how much the brain drain affects Stanford probably won't be known until conference play heats up in late September.

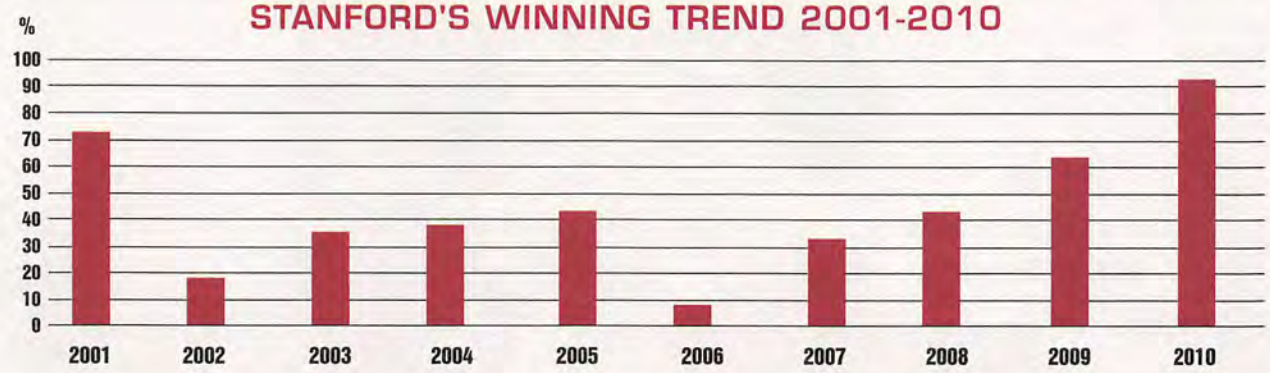
In rebuilding his staff, Shaw tried to maintain continuity.

He promoted receivers coach **Pep Hamilton** to offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Shaw also named secondary coach **Derek Mason** as co-defensive coordinator, where Mason will be joined by **Jason Tarver**, a former position coach with the 49ers.

• Reconfiguring the coaching staff was one of two immediate issues for Shaw. The other was salvaging a stellar recruiting class. Although Stanford lost several prospects in January, it emerged with another Top 20 class.

Several rookies could challenge for immediate playing time, including linebacker **James Vaughters**, safety **Wayne Lyons** and receiver **Ty Montgomery**.

STANFORD'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



The primary concern on offense is receiver.

The Cardinal lost starters Ryan Whalen and Doug Baldwin, who combined for 99 catches. Playmaker Chris Owusu is projected to start but was injured periodically in 2010 and missed spring practice following knee surgery. Griff Whalen, who had 17 catches last year, will get the call on the other side.

Juniors Drew Terrell and Jamal-Rashad Patterson have high-end talent but must become more consistent.

DEFENSE

Stanford is replacing far more than five defensive starters. It must overcome the loss of coordinator Vic Fangio, who in one year transformed the Cardinal into the top scoring defense (17.4 points per game) in the conference.

Two men step into Fangio's play-calling role: Defensive backs coach Derek Mason and former San Francisco 49ers assistant Jason Tarver. They'll retain Fangio's attacking style, with a few tweaks to account for changes in personnel.

The biggest concern defensively is the line, where Stanford must replace two starters. Terrence Stephens has the difficult task of taking over at nose tackle for run-stopper Sione Fua. Ben Gardner exited spring as the projected starter at one end — he played sparingly last season — while steady Matt Masifilo returns on the other side.

The Cardinal was fortunate last season in that all three starters were healthy throughout the year. If its luck turns for the worse this fall, problems could follow: The top reserves, including end Jacob Gowan and tackle Henry Anderson, are inexperienced.

Two of the four starting linebackers return, and they're good ones.

Shayne Skov, the unit's emotional leader, mans one of the inside positions. Chase Thomas (11.5 tackles for loss in 2010), is officially listed as an outside linebacker but often becomes a rush end in passing situations. Max Bergen is expected to take over for Owen Marecic at one of the inside positions. Alex Debniak, Trent Murphy and Blake Lueders will compete for the vacant outside spot. Look for freshman James Vaughters to join the rotation, perhaps immediately.

The secondary has been problematic at Stanford for decades, but the current group might be one of the best in school history. Physical playmakers Delano Howell (strong) and Michael Thomas (free) form a first-rate safety tandem.

One cornerback spot will be filled by solid returning starter Johnson Bademosi, while Barry Browning takes over for Richard Sherman on the other side. Another option is Usua Amanam, a former tailback whose speed and fearlessness helped him navigate the position change during spring practice. Three talented sophomores are available in case of injury to the starters.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Stanford's high-powered offense meant Daniel Zychlinski was forced to punt just 24 times last season. When he did, the results were solid: a 41.8-yard average, with

Stepfan Taylor
Photo by Bob Stanton/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 213.8 ypg rushing (2nd in Pac-10/17th NCAA), 258.7 passing (3rd/29th), 472.5 total offense (2nd/14th), 40.3 ppg (2nd/9th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Andrew Luck*	Jr.	Completed 70.7 percent of his passes; 32 TDs, 8 INTs.	Josh Nunes, So.
RB	Stepfan Taylor*	Jr.	Aiming for back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons.	Anthony Wilkerson, So.
FB	Ryan Hewitt	So.	Athleticism makes him ideal hybrid fullback/H-back.	Geoff Meinken, So.
WR	Chris Owusu	Sr.	A first-class playmaker, if he can stay healthy.	Jamal-Rashad Patterson, Jr.
WR	Griff Whalen	Sr.	Why such good chemistry with Luck? They're roommates.	Drew Terrell, Jr.
TE	Coby Fleener*	Sr.	Loaded position also includes 6-8 Levine Toilolo.	Zach Ertz, So.
LT	Jonathan Martin*	Jr.	All-conference pick might be the nation's best LT.	David Yanker, Fr.
LG	Kevin Danser	So.	Stepped into starting role early in spring, and held it.	Dillon Bonnell, Fr.
C	Sam Schwartzstein	Jr.	Good competition to replace All-American Chase Beeler.	Khalil Wilkes, So.
RG	David DeCastro*	Jr.	Two-year starter; one of the nation's top interior linemen.	Cole Underwood, Fr.
RT	Tyler Mabry	Sr.	Starting job to be determined in training camp.	Cameron Fleming, Fr.
K	Eric Whitaker	So.	Top candidate to replace his steady older brother, Nate.	Jordan Williamson, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 120.9 ypg rushing (2nd in Pac-10/19th NCAA), 202.0 passing (3rd/35th), 322.9 total defense (2nd/21st), 17.4 ppg (1st/10th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Matt Masifilo*	Sr.	Rugged multi-year starter anchors the rebuilt line.	Josh Mauro, So.
NT	Terrence Stephens	Jr.	Replacing underrated run-stopper Sione Fua.	Henry Anderson, Fr.
DE	Ben Gardner	So.	First-time starter with high motor and good quickness.	Jacob Gowan, So.
LB	Chase Thomas*	Jr.	Led team with 11.5 tackles for loss last season.	Blake Lueders, So.
LB	Shayne Skov*	Jr.	Savvy, intense playmaker is the unit's emotional leader.	Joe Hemschoot, Fr.
LB	Max Bergen	Sr.	Slides into inside spot manned in '10 by Owen Marecic.	A.J. Tarpley, Fr.
LB	Alex Debniak	Jr.	Cardinal has three solid options here, including Lueders.	Trent Murphy, So.
CB	Johnson Bademosi*	Sr.	Improved last season, but not yet a standout.	Usua Amanam, So.
CB	Barry Browning	So.	Takes over for ball-hawking Richard Sherman.	Terrence Brown, So.
SS	Delano Howell*	Sr.	Playmaker led team with five interceptions last year.	Devon Carrington, So.
FS	Michael Thomas*	Sr.	Combines with Howell to form a top-tier safety tandem.	Kyle Olugbode, Fr.
P	Daniel Zychlinski*	Jr.	Averaged 41.8 yards per punt; eight inside the 20.	David Green, Sr.

*Returning Starter

CARDINAL RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Kevin Anderson	DE	6-4	240	✪✪✪	Palo Alto, CA	Palo Alto
Rated as the No. 86 prospect in California by Rivals.com... Recorded 110 tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 11.5 sacks as a senior.						
Brendon Austin	OL	6-5	263	✪✪✪✪	Parker, CO	Chaparral
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Colorado...Rated as the nation's No. 20 offensive tackle...Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Devon Cajuste	WR	6-4	220	✪✪✪	Flushing, NY	Holy Cross
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in New York by Rivals.com...Had 40 receptions for 921 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior...Participated in the NUC All-World Gridiron Classic.						
Lance Callihan	DT	6-3	295	✪✪✪	Baton Rouge, LA	Catholic
Second-team all-district selection...Recorded 43 tackles, 3.5 sacks and one interception as a senior...Had 61 tackles and 28 tackles for loss as a junior.						
Evan Crower	QB	6-4	182	✪✪✪	San Diego, CA	St. Augustine
Threw for 2,232 yards and 32 touchdowns as a senior... Passed for 7,590 yards and 93 touchdowns in his four-year high school career.						
Ronnie Harris	DB	5-10	175	✪✪✪	Atlanta, GA	Westlake
Rated as the No. 58 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 54 cornerback...Had 51 tackles and six interceptions as a junior.						
Anthony Hayes	DT	6-3	290	✪✪✪	Mendota Heights, MN	St. Thomas Acad.
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Minnesota by Rivals.com...Recorded seven sacks as a senior.						
Kevin Hogan	QB	6-4	200	✪✪✪	Washington, DC	Gonzaga
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in D.C. by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 15 pro-style quarterback... Passed for 1,820 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior.						
Charlie Hopkins	DE	6-6	240	✪✪✪✪	Spokane, WA	Gonzaga Prep
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Washington...Rated as the nation's No. 15 strongside defensive end.						
Wayne Lyons	DB	6-0	190	✪✪✪✪	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Dillard
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 21 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 6 safety...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Ty Montgomery	WR	6-0	202	✪✪✪✪	Dallas, TX	St. Mark's
Rated as the No. 38 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 30 wide receiver...Had 10 touchdown receptions as a senior.						
Ra'Chard Pippens	DB	6-0	174	✪✪✪	McDonough, GA	Ola
Rated as the No. 45 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 48 safety...Participated in the NUC All-World Gridiron Classic.						
Kevin Reihner	OL	6-3	275	✪✪✪	Scranton, PA	Scranton Preparatory
Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 34 offensive guard.						
Jordan Richards	ATH	5-11	185	✪✪✪	Folsom, CA	Folsom
Rated as the No. 91 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 60 athlete... Caught 69 passes for 1,068 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior.						
J.B. Salem	DE	6-4	254	✪✪✪	Newport Beach, CA	Newport Harbor
Rated as the No. 66 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 48 strongside defensive end...Had 44 tackles and two sacks as a senior.						
Patrick Skov	LB	6-1	241	✪✪	Lawrenceville, NJ	Lawrenceville Prep
Rushed for 657 yards and 15 touchdowns on 93 carries as a senior...First-team all-region selection.						
James Vaughters	LB	6-2	235	✪✪✪✪	Tucker, GA	Tucker
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 4 inside linebacker...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Remound Wright	RB	5-9	190	✪✪✪✪	Fort Wayne, IN	Bishop Dwenger
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Indiana...Rated as the nation's No. 16 running back.						
Kelsey Young	RB	5-11	192	✪✪✪✪	Norco, CA	Norco
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 24 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 12 running back.						

A LOOK AT THE CARDINAL

RESULTS

12-1, 8-1

W	SACRAMENTO STATE	52-17
W	at UCLA	35-0
W	WAKE FOREST	68-24
W	at Notre Dame	37-14
L	at Oregon	31-52
W	USC	37-35
W	WASHINGTON STATE	38-28
W	at Washington	41-0
W	ARIZONA	42-17
W	at Arizona State	17-13
W	at California	48-14
W	OREGON STATE	38-0
	Orange Bowl	
W	vs. Virginia Tech	40-12

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
A. Luck	13	263	372	8	70.7	3338	32
A. Loukas	8	2	5	0	40.0	18	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. Taylor	13	223	1137	5.1	15	62	87.5
A. Luck	13	55	453	8.2	3	58	34.8
A. Wilkerson	13	89	408	4.6	3	39	31.4

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
D. Baldwin	13	58	857	14.8	9	81	65.9
R. Whalen	11	41	439	10.7	2	30	39.9
C. Fleener	13	28	434	15.5	7	58	33.4

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: S. Skov 84, C. Thomas 70, M. Thomas 61
Tackles for loss: C. Thomas 11.5, S. Skov 10.5, T. Keiser 9.5
Sacks: S. Skov 7.5, C. Thomas 7.5, two tied with 4.5
Interceptions: D. Howell 5, R. Sherman 4, O. Marecic 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	SAN JOSE STATE	1-12
Sept. 10	at Duke	3-9
Sept. 17	at Arizona	7-6
Oct. 1	UCLA	4-8
Oct. 8	COLORADO	5-7
Oct. 15	at Washington State	2-10
Oct. 22	WASHINGTON	7-6
Oct. 29	at USC	8-5
Nov. 5	at Oregon State	5-7
Nov. 12	OREGON	12-1
Nov. 19	CALIFORNIA	5-7
Nov. 26	NOTRE DAME	8-5

PLAYER PROFILE

Shayne Skov
Photo by John Mersits/Icon SMI

Skov is Undisputed Heart of Cardinal D

The defensive front has been revamped. Half the linebacking unit has turned over. There is a new defensive play-caller, a new position coach and a revised playbook.

But the heart of Stanford's defense remains unchanged: Inside linebacker Shayne Skov is back for another year of passion and playmaking — an all-conference candidate who led Stanford in tackles last season (84) despite missing the first two games because of injury.

"He's starting to become a real leader for us," coach David Shaw said at the conclusion of spring practice.

Passion has never been a problem for the free-spirited junior, who has periodically sported a Mohawk during his Stanford career. If anything, he has learned to turn down the fire and brimstone and become more even-keeled on the field.

"I'm a very vocal and emotional player, and that's one of the ways I contribute," Skov said. "The challenge sometimes is keeping my own composure."

Skov's personal journey has a heart-wrenching component of its own. He spent his early years in Piedmont, Calif., outside of Oakland. But his family moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, where the low humidity helped his mother, Terri, cope with the effects of multiple sclerosis.

Skov played American football on the dirt fields of a soccer nation, but moved back to the United States for high school. He started at Piedmont High School but transferred to Trinity-Pawling, a boarding school in New York state, developing into one of the nation's top linebackers. Recruited by USC and Notre Dame, Skov picked Stanford.

"I committed during my sophomore year and never got serious about anywhere else," said Skov, whose brother, Patrick, is a freshman fullback for the Cardinal.

Skov became a starter midway through his freshman season after an injury to senior Clinton Snyder. A whirling dervish of energy, he recorded 15 tackles in the Sun Bowl loss to Oklahoma.

"I was basically just playing," he said. "At times, I didn't know what I was doing. I was highly dependent on the players around me."

As a full-time starter last season, Skov recorded 7.5 sacks, 10.5 tackles for loss and was named honorable mention All-Pac-10. Once again he saved his best for the postseason, with 12 tackles in the Orange Bowl victory over Virginia Tech.

His goal: Continue to keep the passion in check while making the most of his opportunities.

"I left a lot of plays on the table last year," he said. "I need to put myself in position to be more efficient."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Andrew Luck

Had a 170.2 efficiency rating last season and enters the 2011 season as the Heisman Trophy favorite and presumptive No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft. ... Will be working with a new center, a new quarterback coach, a new offensive coordinator and a new head coach. ... How he manages the transition will determine whether Stanford reaches its potential as a Top 10 team. ... Has thrown for 45 career touchdown passes, with only 12 interceptions.

EMERGING STAR

TE Coby Fleener

Was third on the team with 28 receptions last season; averaged 15.5 yards per catch. ... Was the breakout star of the Orange Bowl with three second-half touchdowns (41, 58 and 38 yards). ... The 6-6 senior has good speed and excellent hands, plus a knack for finding seams in the defense. ... Will face strong competition for playing time from Zach Ertz and Levine Toilolo — Stanford has one of the best groups of tight ends in the country.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB James Vaughters

The true freshman from Georgia was the jewel of Stanford's recruiting class (scholarship offers from Florida, Alabama and Ohio State). ... The athletic 235-pounder is expected to compete for one of the vacant linebacker spots but could be an edge rusher down the road if he bulks up. ... Vaughters committed to Stanford last summer, reconsidered after Jim Harbaugh left, but ultimately decided to stick with the Cardinal.

eight landing inside the 20. He'll attempt to duplicate that success again while warding off a challenge from David Green.

The Cardinal must replace reliable placekicker Nate Whitaker, who made 17 of 19 field goal attempts last year. His younger brother, Eric, will compete with Jordan Williamson.

Drew Terrell showed promise as a punt returner, a position that has long been problematic for Stanford, averaging 12.2 yards per return last season. If healthy, Chris Owusu is one of the most devastating kick returners in the country.

Stanford's other options are the versatile Usua Amanam, receiver Corey Gatewood and tailback Jeremy Stewart.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Stanford opens with San Jose State and Duke, which were a combined 4-21 last season. That soft start will provide the revamped coaching staff with a chance to work out any glitches in preparation or communication before the schedule heats up.

And it heats up — in more ways than one — with a trip to Arizona in Week 3.

The October lineup is filled with opponents Stanford should dominate, until the end. A showdown at USC kicks off a difficult stretch that includes a trip to Oregon State, where Stanford has one victory in the past 12 years.

Then comes the much-anticipated Nov. 12 showdown against Oregon at Stanford Stadium, which could have BCS implications. As it always does in odd years, the Cardinal finishes with Cal and Notre Dame at home.

— Jon Wilner

UCLA BRUINS

For more coverage of the Bruins, visit ucla.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Johnson | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Joe Tresey | **STADIUM:** Rose Bowl: 91,500

AT A GLANCE

2010:
4-8, 2-7 Pac-10 (9th)

COACH:
Rick Neuheisel — At UCLA and overall: 15-22, 3 years; overall: 81-52, 11 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
15; 7 offense, 7 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
RB Johnathan Franklin, WR Nelson Rosario, FB Anthony Barr, DT Cassius Marsh, DE Datone Jones, LB Patrick Larimore, S Tony Dye, P Jeff Locke

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The running game took off last season, and if spring is any indication, it should click even better. UCLA brought in run game coordinator Jim Mastro from Nevada to help refine the Pistol offense. Pass defense should also be stronger with eight players with starting experience returning on defense.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
As far as the running game came along last season, the passing game fell. Unless Mike Johnson has some schematic improvements — along with the oft-repeated mantra of instilling confidence in a forlorn unit — the Bruins are going to continue to struggle through the air.

KEY LOSSES:
C Ryan Taylor, DT David Carter, LB Akeem Ayers, S Rahim Moore, K Kai Forbath

OVERVIEW:
The Neuheisel era has been rather uninspiring, due in part to injuries and inconsistencies. The talent is there in Westwood for a bounce-back season. The pot just needed to be stirred a little bit — hence five new coaches. If the Bruins get some consistent quarterback play, the team is bowl-bound.

Talented, Retooled Bruins Looking for Bounce-Back Season

It sure hasn't gone as scripted for head coach Rick Neuheisel, clocking in at 15-22 in three years at his alma mater.

The Bruins have lacked direction and discipline in sandwiching one promising 7-6 season that included an EagleBank Bowl victory with two 4-8 campaigns.

This sure looks like a make-or-break season for Neuheisel, who reset the coaching staff in the offseason.

He replaced offensive coordinator Norm Chow with former San Francisco 49ers offensive coordinator Mike Johnson. He fired defensive coordinator Chuck Bullough and hired former Cincinnati and South Florida defensive coordinator Joe Tresey.

He brought in three more new coaches, including former Nevada running backs coach Jim Mastro to help refine the Pistol offense, which produced mixed results for the Bruins last season.

The talent is there, with three consecutive Top 15 recruiting classes finally starting to show some dividends. Fifteen starters return, and UCLA also brings back three important linemen who missed all of the 2010 season.

Redshirt junior defensive end Datone Jones returns with lofty expectations from a broken foot. Senior center Kai Maiava (broken ankle) and junior tackle Jeff Baca (academic suspension) return to anchor the offensive line, although Baca suffered a broken ankle in spring ball and is likely to miss the beginning of the season.

But talent means little if the players don't play with conviction, and the coaches know that.

"The No. 1 point we started with was a standard of excellence that we are going to exhibit, whether on the field, in class, in meetings," Johnson said. "The standard starts from Day One. If you don't follow those core beliefs, you don't match that standard, you can't play here."

OFFENSE

Neuheisel's offensive overhaul starts with improvement at quarterback.

Neuheisel has installed himself as quarterbacks coach, addressing a position that has fallen to shocking depths for a program that once had consistent play — sometimes All-American-caliber play — at the position.

This is no easy task. The Bruins, using sophomores Kevin Prince and Richard Brehaut, ranked 116th nationally in passing in 2010 and 118th in passing efficiency. Prince is coming off a season-ending knee injury; Brehaut, trying to solidify a starting role, came up short in spring camp.

Prince, after a promising redshirt freshman season in which he threw for 2,050 yards and eight touchdowns with eight interceptions, battled injuries and inefficiency before being shut down after a Week Six loss at Cal.

Brehaut did not improve the fortunes of the struggling offense, completing 119 of 212 passes for 1,296 yards, with six touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Now, wunderkind freshman Brett Hundley enters the fold with a potent dual-threat ability, and the position is up for grabs heading into fall camp.

A solid corps of running backs lessens the passing burden, as impressive junior Johnathan Franklin returns after an 1,127-yard season. The stealthy Franklin teams with bulldozing senior Derrick Coleman to give the Bruins a solid one-two punch, and the team is licking its lips in anticipation of the maturation of Jordon James and Malcolm Jones.

The wide receiver position returns extensive experience, but new coordinator Mike Johnson hopes to bring a swagger back to the unit.

Senior Nelson Rosario could have a breakout season if the quarterback position stabilizes, as his 6-5 frame provides an ample target. With seniors Taylor Embree and Josh Smith, junior Randall Carroll and sophomores Ricky Marvray and Shaquelle

Tony Dye
Photo by Peter G. Aiken/Getty Images

BRUINS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
26	Andrew Abbott	CB	5-10	181	Jr.	Long Beach
17	David Allen	LB	6-2	224	Jr.	South Pasadena
53	Uche Amajoyi	DL	6-1	265	Fr.	San Bernardino
60	Jeff Baca	OT	6-4	304	Jr.	Mission Viego
68	Jay Barlow	OL	6-2	303	Fr.	San Diego
31	Librado Barocio	CB	5-8	175	Fr.	Los Angeles
2	Anthony Barr	F	6-5	238	So.	San Pedro
89	Jordan Barrett	TE	6-2	257	So.	Oak Park
32	Josh Barut	SS	6-0	188	Fr.	Seal Beach
11	Darius Bell	QB	5-11	230	Jr.	San Francisco
69	Blake Bentz	C	6-2	300	Fr.	Bellevue, WA
25	Isaiah Bowens	LB	6-1	235	So.	La Verne
70	Connor Bradford	OL	6-5	249	Jr.	Palmdale
12	Richard Brehaut	QB	6-2	225	Jr.	Alta Loma
49	Derrick Bryant	DE	6-3	249	Fr.	Columbus, OH
64	Greg Capella	C	6-4	310	So.	Visalia
1	Randall Carroll	WR	5-10	186	Jr.	Inglewood
9	Donovan Carter	DT	6-1	305	Jr.	North Hills
89	Nate Chandler	DT	6-5	298	Sr.	San Diego
33	Derrick Coleman	TB	6-0	233	Sr.	Fullerton
18	Nick Crissman	QB	6-3	226	Jr.	Surfside
24	Jeff Dickmann	CB	5-9	190	Jr.	Woodland Hills
78	Brett Downey	OT	6-7	305	Jr.	Altaville
6	Tony Dye	SS	5-11	205	Sr.	Corona
99	Justin Edison	DT	6-4	292	Sr.	Inglewood
82	Taylor Embree	WR	6-3	205	Sr.	Overland Park, KS
98	Seali'i Epenesa	DT	6-2	323	So.	Walpahu, HI
19	Shaquelle Evans	WR	6-1	199	So.	Inglewood
8	Joseph Fauria	TE	6-7	258	Jr.	Encino
57	Wesley Flowers	DE	6-4	264	Fr.	Fresno
41	Robert Franco	LB	6-0	230	So.	San Pedro
23	Johnathan Franklin	TB	5-10	198	Jr.	Los Angeles
97	Luke Gane	OL	6-1	246	Fr.	Huntington Beach
55	Todd Golper	LB	6-0	240	So.	Arcadia
59	Keenan Graham	DE	6-2	245	So.	Las Vegas, NV
67	Casey Griffiths	OG	6-4	286	So.	Roseville
92	Tre Hale	DT	6-2	308	Fr.	Rancho Cucamonga
87	Cory Harkey	TE	6-5	273	Sr.	Chino Hills
65	Mike Harris	OT	6-5	334	Sr.	Duarte
74	Stan Hasiak	OG	6-5	301	So.	Kapolei, HI
21	Aaron Hester	CB	6-1	209	Jr.	Compton
90	Austin Hill	TE	6-5	252	Jr.	Los Alamitos
19	Dalton Hilliard	FS	6-0	189	Jr.	Mililani, HI
33	Ryan Hofmeister	LB	6-2	220	So.	Riverside
97	Damien Holmes	DE	6-3	265	Jr.	Grand Terrace
17	Brett Hundley	QB	6-4	225	Fr.	Chandler, AZ
63	Kody Innes	C	6-4	285	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ
6	Jordon James	TB	5-11	193	Fr.	Corona
8	Anthony Jefferson	CB	6-1	183	Fr.	Los Angeles
9	Jerry Johnson	WR	6-4	213	Jr.	Los Angeles
56	Datone Jones	DE	6-4	272	Jr.	Compton
28	Malcolm Jones	TB	6-0	227	So.	Agoura Hills
30	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-1	226	Fr.	Fresno
48	Jarad Koster	LB	6-1	208	Fr.	Norco
42	Patrick Larimore	LB	6-3	253	Jr.	Santa Clarita
29	Alex Levy	WR	6-1	167	So.	Ripon
18	Jeff Locke	P/PK	6-1	210	Jr.	Glendale, AZ
20	Glenn Love	LB	6-4	219	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
51	Kai Maiava	C	6-1	318	Sr.	Wailuku, HI
71	Cassius Marsh	DT	6-4	295	So.	Simi Valley
10	Ricky Marvray	WR	5-11	190	So.	Corona
15	Alex Mascarenas	FS	5-10	188	So.	Mission Viejo
48	Kevin McDermott	TE/LS	6-5	250	Jr.	Nashville, TN
12	Tevin McDonald	FS	6-0	194	Fr.	Fresno
4	Stan McKay	SS	6-1	198	So.	Long Beach
47	Ryan Medina	DE	6-3	235	Jr.	Oxnard
94	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	6-4	264	So.	Portland, OR
14	Aramide Olaniyan	LB	6-2	208	Fr.	Bowie, MD
7	Morrell Presley	F	6-4	245	Jr.	Carson
40	Dylan Price	DB	5-9	209	Fr.	Mission Viejo
22	Sheldon Price	CB	6-2	178	Jr.	Chino Hills
4	Kevin Prince	QB	6-2	230	Jr.	Los Angeles
88	Jerry Rice, Jr.	WR	5-11	186	So.	Atherton
1	Dietrich Riley	SS	6-0	205	So.	Pasadena
21	Joe Roberts	PK	6-1	212	Fr.	Irvine
83	Nelson Rosario	WR	6-5	218	Sr.	Oceanside
52	Phillip Ruhl	LB	6-0	225	Fr.	Stockton
58	Sam Saultz	OL	6-2	322	Fr.	Huntington Beach
19	Maxwell Schuh	QB	6-4	202	Fr.	Fresno
2	Brandon Sermons	CB	5-11	185	So.	Diamond Bar
72	Sean Sheller	OT	6-5	315	Sr.	Walnut
81	Kyle Slowey	WR	6-4	200	Fr.	Torrance
3	Josh Smith	WR	6-0	209	Sr.	Moorpark
17	Kip Smith	PK	6-0	218	Fr.	Broomfield, CO
15	Ryan Sublett	WR	6-3	196	Jr.	Goleta
10	Sam Tai	DE	6-4	264	Fr.	Henderson, NV
96	Iuta Tepa	DE	6-1	259	So.	Long Beach
25	Damien Thigpen	F/CB	5-8	183	Jr.	Gainesville, VA
23	Anthony Thompson	CB	6-1	208	Fr.	Montreal, CAN
7	Courtney Viney	CB	5-8	167	Sr.	Fresno
3	Aaron Wallace	LB	6-4	230	Fr.	San Diego
75	Chris Ward	OG	6-4	325	So.	Huntington Beach
11	Sean Westgate	LB	6-0	223	Sr.	Oak Park
71	Wade Yandall	OG	6-4	329	Fr.	Carson
99	Andrew Yelich	TE	6-3	230	So.	Newport Beach
85	John Young	TE	6-3	265	Fr.	Redondo Beach
35	Jordan Zumwalt	LB	6-4	230	So.	Huntington Beach

NOTEBOOK

UCLA's biggest enigma last season: What happened to the wide receivers?

Projected to be one of the team's biggest strengths, the unit was plagued by inconsistency, indecisiveness and a downright, team-wide case of the drops. You'd have thought the ball was covered in Crisco.

The wideouts struggled to adapt to the new Pistol offense, which utilized more downfield blocking, and the players often appeared tired early in games. A year of experience in the offense should help, as should better timing with patterns and special routes.

New offensive coordinator **Mike Johnson** is also serving as wide receivers coach, and he is making it his mission to get improved play from the unit, which features potential blue-chippers in **Nelson Rosario** and **Randall Carroll**, as well as steady playmakers in **Taylor Embree** and **Josh Smith**.

• To UCLA message board fanatics, **Rick Neuheisel's** chipper image and ultra-positive outlook are wearing thin after a 15-22 record in three years. It appears the message is getting lost on recruits, as well.

Aside from star quarterback recruit **Brett Hundley**, the Bruins' 2011 recruiting class was a drastic drop from Neuheisel's first three classes, which each ranked in the Top 15 nationally.

Toward the end of the recruiting period, UCLA lost out on several top national recruits and had to scramble for little-known prospects just to boost its numbers.

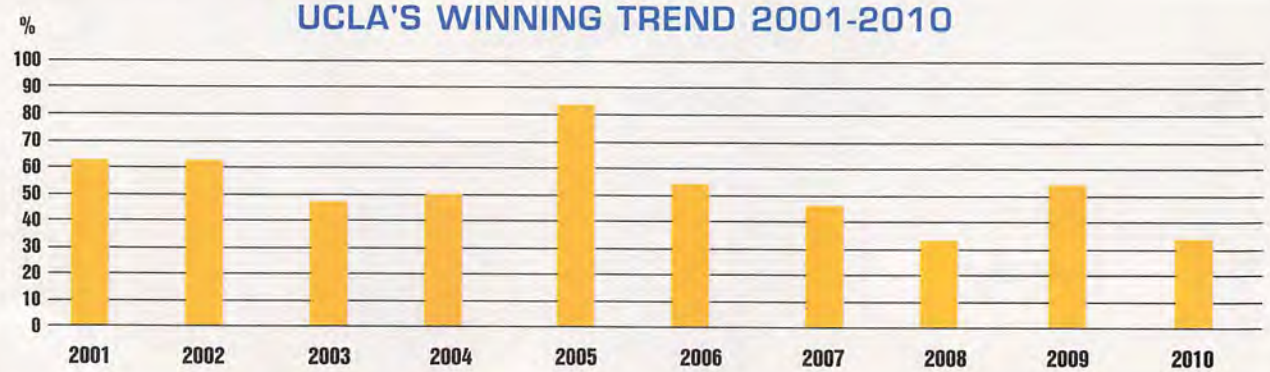
But Neuheisel remains one of the country's best recruiters, and the feeling is that one good season can put the Bruins back on the map ... especially with crosstown rival USC facing NCAA-mandated scholarship reductions for three seasons, starting in 2012.

• Neuheisel announced in May that senior cornerback Courtney Viney and junior tight end Morrell Presley were granted their release in order to transfer.

Viney was on pace to graduate and would be immediately eligible to compete at another FBS school. Presley, who was the top-rated tight end out of high school, was a big recruiting coup for Neuheisel, who won a battle with USC's Pete Carroll.

Presley had various off-field and academic problems at UCLA, making only 11 receptions for 63 yards in his Bruins career. He has a redshirt season available.

UCLA'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



Evans (a Notre Dame transfer), there is room for optimism.

Sophomore F-back Anthony Barr also figures to play a major role, as do tight ends Cory Harkey and Joseph Fauria.

The line was sound in the running game, but porous in pass protection, last season. With the return of 28-game starter Mike Harris, sixth-year senior Sean Sheller, Kai Maiava and Jeff Baca — and with the expected leap of hulking sophomore Chris Ward — the Bruins have the makings of a consistent unit.

DEFENSE

Neuheisel replaced coordinator Chuck Bullough with Joe Tresey, hoping to revitalize a defense that has loads of talent but little discipline.

The talent starts up front, as redshirt junior Datone Jones returns from a broken foot. Jones was sensational in spring ball, and at 6-4, 272 pounds — and with a neck like a Greek column — he will instantly upgrade the defensive line.

Jones was projected to be an all-conference player last season, and his return will pay dividends for a line that features promising sophomore Cassius Marsh and sturdy senior Nate Chandler at defensive tackle. If UCLA can get production from junior end Damien Holmes, the Bruins will be drastically improved in the front four.

Despite losing Akeem Ayers, the linebacker unit as a whole could actually be better. Ayers was an absolute beast at times, but he played primarily by instinct and often was out of position.

The hope is that a veteran unit of junior middle linebacker Patrick Larimore and senior outside linebackers Sean Westgate and Glenn Love will play more cohesively and with less risk-taking.

Larimore is certainly the star of the corps, a gritty, no-nonsense throwback. He showed flashes of all-conference ability before being sidelined midway through the year with a shoulder injury.

The Bruins feel secure with their future; sophomores Jordan Zumwalt and Isaiah Bowens, and redshirt freshmen Eric Kendricks and Aramide Olaniyan, wait in the wings.

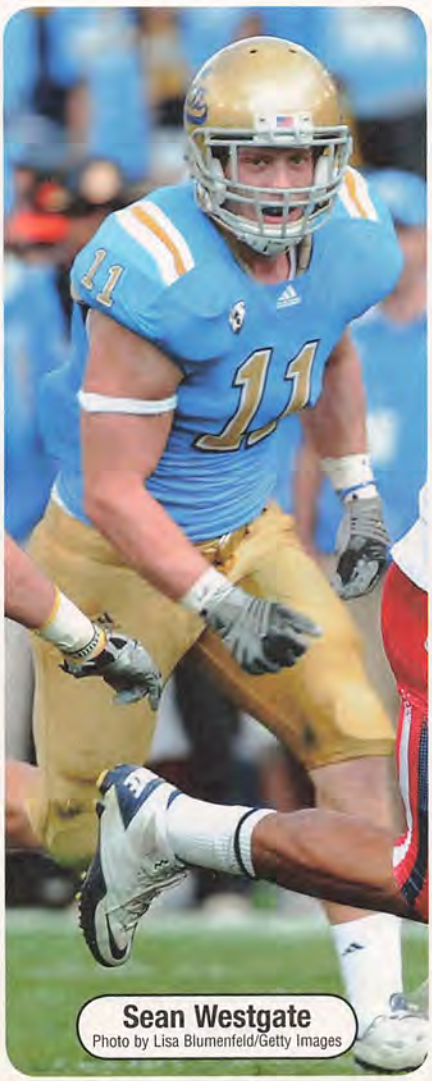
Senior safety Tony Dye is primed for a major campaign as the team's defensive leader, finally basking in the spotlight with the defection of free safety Rahim Moore to the NFL. Dye will lead a secondary that is long on "long."

The Bruins' cornerbacks — juniors Aaron Hester and Sheldon Price — stand at 6-1 and 6-2, respectively. The duo played inspired football at times last season but were prone to lapses in judgment behind an ineffective pass rush.

The emerging star of the defense could be sophomore strong safety Dietrich Riley. Riley was a signing day coup for Neuheisel in 2010, choosing the Bruins over cross-town rival USC, and he delivered immediately by registering 21 tackles in spot duty.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kai Forbath has graduated and taken his school-record-tying 85 career field



Sean Westgate
Photo by Lisa Blumenfeld/Getty Images

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 175.6 ypg rushing (4th in Pac-10/32nd NCAA), 141.1 passing (10th/116th), 316.7 total offense (10th/100th), 20.2 ppg (9th/104th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Richard Brehaut*	Jr.	Job up for grabs with oft-injured Prince and a true frosh.	Kevin Prince, Jr.
RB	Johnathan Franklin*	Jr.	National profile should rise after a big sophomore year.	Derrick Coleman, Sr.
FB	Anthony Barr	So.	Freakish talent, but inconsistent in undefined position.	Damien Thigpen, Jr.
WR	Nelson Rosario*	Sr.	Size, speed make him prime target, but can he dominate?	Randall Carroll, Jr.
WR	Taylor Embree*	Sr.	Reliable option, but needs to reach another level.	Josh Smith, Sr.
TE	Cory Harkey*	Sr.	Impressive blocker must become option in passing game.	Joseph Fauria, Jr.
LT	Jeff Baca	Jr.	Missed 2010 (grades); missed much of spring (ankle).	Connor Bradford, Jr.
LG	Sean Sheller*	Sr.	Important re-addition after getting waiver for sixth year.	Stan Hasiak, So.
C	Kai Maiava	Sr.	His health is key to offensive line continuity, success.	Greg Capella, So.
RG	Chris Ward	So.	Best talent on the line, now gets his time to shine.	Wade Yandall, Fr.
RT	Mike Harris*	Sr.	With 28 career starts, brings experience to veteran corps.	Brett Downey, Jr.
K	Kip Smith	Fr.	Following in elephant-sized footprints of Kai Forbath.	Jeff Locke, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 205.5 ypg rushing (9th in Pac-10/108th NCAA), 214.6 passing (5th/53rd), 420.1 total defense (9th/94th), 30.3 ppg (9th/86th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Datone Jones	Jr.	His return from broken foot is huge for the defense.	Owa Odighizuwa, So.*
DT	Cassius Marsh	So.	Once he adds bulk, will be one of the best in conference.	Justin Edison, Sr.
DT	Nate Chandler	Sr.	Still adjusting to position, but has raw athleticism.	Donovan Carter, Jr.
DE	Damien Holmes*	Jr.	Looked sensational in spring ball; might've turned corner.	Keenan Graham, So.
LB	Sean Westgate*	Sr.	Undersized stalwart emerging as leader on young defense.	Eric Kendricks, Fr.
LB	Patrick Larimore*	Jr.	Before midseason injury, showed major star potential.	Isaiah Bowens, So.
LB	Glenn Love	Sr.	In stiff competition with youngsters Zumwalt, Kendricks.	Jordan Zumwalt, So.
CB	Aaron Hester*	Jr.	High-risk, high-reward, but should be more seasoned.	Anthony Jefferson, Fr.
CB	Sheldon Price*	Jr.	Team's best on-ball defender; run support could improve.	Andrew Abbott, Jr.
SS	Dietrich Riley	So.	An emerging star; has perhaps biggest upside on defense.	Dalton Hilliard, Jr.
FS	Tony Dye*	Sr.	Steady presence for two years; needs to make "the leap."	Alex Mascarenas, So.
P	Jeff Locke*	Jr.	One of the nation's best punters; as steady as they come.	Kip Smith, Fr.

*Returning Starter

BRUINS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jake Brendel	OL	6-4	268	✪✪✪	Plano, TX	Plano East
Rated as the No. 85 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 15 offensive center...Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Ryan Hofmeister	LB	6-1	220	✪✪✪	Riverside, CA	Riverside C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 49 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Earned all-conference honors...Recorded 127 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks in 2010.						
Brett Hundley	QB	6-4	210	✪✪✪✪	Chandler, AZ	Chandler
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Arizona...Rated as the nation's No. 2 dual-threat quarterback...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game... Completed 139 of 225 passes for 2,348 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior.						
Devin Lucien	WR	6-1	189	✪✪✪✪	Encino, CA	Crespi
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 21 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 22 wide receiver... Had 71 receptions for 1,259 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior.						
Steven Manfro	RB	5-10	187	✪✪	Castaic, CA	Valencia
Accounted for 3,788 all-purpose yards and 41 touchdowns as a senior...Scored 123 touchdowns during his career...Chose UCLA over Wyoming.						
Conor McDermott	TE	6-8	245	✪✪	Nashville, TN	Ensworth
Helped lead team to 10-2 record and state title...Also played basketball... Brother of UCLA tight end/long snapper Kevin McDermott.						
Kevin McReynolds	DT	6-2	281	✪✪✪✪	Washington, DC	St. John's College High
Rated as the No. 2 prospect in D.C. by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 28 defensive tackle...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Raymond Nelson	TE	6-5	238	✪✪✪	Modesto, CA	Modesto Christian
Had 27 receptions for 573 yards and six touchdowns on offense, while recording 48 tackles and three sacks on defense as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jerry Neuheisel	QB	6-2	180	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Loyola
Rated as the nation's No. 28 pro-style quarterback...Son of UCLA coach Rick Nueheisel... Completed 47 of 80 passes for 590 yards and five touchdowns in four games as a senior...Threw for 1,621 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior.						
Will Oliver	OL	6-8	290	✪✪✪	Brentwood, CA	Heritage
Helped clear the way for more than 3,000 rushing yards by the Heritage High offense in 2010...Earned first-team all-league honors...Chose UCLA over Fresno State, Nevada and Sacramento State.						
Mike Orloff	LB	6-2	215	✪✪✪	Danvers, MA	Lawrence Academy
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Massachusetts by Rivals.com...Had 42 tackles and two interceptions as a senior...Had 72 tackles and two interceptions as a junior...Also played quarterback...Chose UCLA over Iowa and Louisville.						
Sam Tai	DE	6-4	234	✪✪	Las Vegas, NV	Liberty
Had close to 70 tackles and 15 sacks as a senior...Also played quarterback and tight end in high school...Chose UCLA over Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho and others.						
Brandon Tuliaupupu	DT	6-2	275	✪✪✪	Claremont, CA	Claremont
Rated as the No. 90 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 52 defensive tackle...Chose UCLA over Kansas, New Mexico, San Jose State, Washington State and Wyoming.						
Aaron Wallace Jr.	LB	6-4	215	✪✪✪	San Diego, CA	Rancho Bernardo
Rated as the No. 89 prospect in California by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 66 outside linebacker...Had 65 tackles as a junior...Chose UCLA over Texas A&M and Washington.						
Torian White	OL	6-6	275	✪✪✪	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl...Chose UCLA over Colorado State, Oregon State, USC and Washington State.						
Ben Wysocki	OL	6-4	265	✪✪✪	Los Alamitos, CA	Los Alamitos
Second-team all-county selection...Chose UCLA over Northern Arizona, Oregon State and Stanford.						

A LOOK AT THE BRUINS

RESULTS

4-8, 2-7

L	at Kansas State	22-31
L	STANFORD	0-35
W	HOUSTON	31-13
W	at Texas	34-12
W	WASHINGTON STATE	42-28
L	at California	7-35
L	at Oregon	13-60
L	ARIZONA	21-29
W	OREGON STATE	17-14
L	at Washington	7-24
L	at Arizona State	34-55
L	USC	14-28

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
R. Brehaut	9	119	212	7	56.1	1296	6
K. Prince	5	42	94	5	44.7	384	3

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Franklin	12	214	1127	5.3	8	59	93.9
D. Coleman	11	82	487	5.9	5	73	44.3
M. Jones	12	55	200	3.6	0	21	16.7

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
T. Embree	12	32	409	12.8	0	43	34.1
N. Rosario	9	29	309	10.7	1	42	34.3
R. Marvray	11	20	188	9.4	2	29	17.1

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: T. Dye 96, S. Westgate 90, R. Moore 77
Tackles for loss: S. Westgate 11, A. Ayers 10, three tied with 5
Sacks: S. Westgate 4, A. Ayers 4, D. Carter 3.5
Interceptions: A. Hester 3, A. Ayers 2, two tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	at Houston	5-7
Sept. 10	SAN JOSE STATE	1-12
Sept. 17	TEXAS	5-7
Sept. 24	at Oregon State	5-7
Oct. 1	at Stanford	12-1
Oct. 8	WASHINGTON STATE	2-10
Oct. 20	at Arizona	7-6
Oct. 29	CALIFORNIA	5-7
Nov. 5	ARIZONA STATE	6-6
Nov. 12	at Utah	10-3
Nov. 19	COLORADO	5-7
Nov. 26	at USC	8-5

PLAYER PROFILE

Johnathan Franklin
Photo by Mark Comon/Sports Studio Photos/Getty Images

Franklin to Carry The Load in 2011

They call him "Jet Ski," a nickname Johnathan Franklin picked up in fifth grade, when during a foot race with a Pop Warner teammate, the then-Crenshaw Cougar left a stream of dirt in his wake.

The nickname has served him well, apropos of his speed and cutting ability, first at Dorsey High, and now as UCLA's starting running back.

Pretty soon he might be called tow truck, though.

He's going to have to carry a big load for these Bruins.

Coming off an 1,127-yard, eight-touchdown sophomore season, Franklin is poised to burst onto the national scene.

"This year, my goal is to make it a household name," Franklin said.

"This is one of the biggest years I'll have in my life. It is a deciding year for me. It's a year for me to establish my name. I feel like I have to earn my way into that group. There are some great backs in the Pac-12 now, and in the past. Eleven-hundred yards wasn't good enough to be a household name."

Not when Oregon's LaMichael James led the country with 1,731 yards for the national runner-up Ducks, a year after Stanford's Toby Gerhart led the country with 1,871 yards.

Franklin had a nice sophomore season, especially by UCLA standards, but he's not finished.

During the offseason, Franklin set out to improve his speed in-and-out of holes, to iron out ball-security issues that have plagued him in two seasons and to work on his pass-catching abilities out of the backfield.

"Football means something to him; his work ethic makes him different," said new UCLA offensive coordinator Mike Johnson.

"We have a lot of good football players, and a lot of those guys don't have the desire and ethics to be great. Johnathan Franklin possesses those. He has the toughness, the insides, to go out there and compete. The game is not too big for him."

At 5-10, 198 pounds, Franklin is certainly not too big for the game either, though he packs a solid build onto a rather slight frame. He is the Lightning to senior running back Derrick Coleman's Thunder, a combination that blossomed last year in the Pistol offense.

Even with highly touted youngsters Jordon James and Malcolm Jones pushing for carries, Franklin is expected to shoulder the burden.

Said Franklin: "We need all the backs to produce to get to where we're trying to go."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Johnathan Franklin

Franklin was one of the few bright spots for a 4-8 team, tallying 1,127 yards and eight touchdowns as a redshirt sophomore. ... With new running game coordinator Jim Mastro in town from Pistol-packed Nevada, Franklin figures to be utilized more creatively. ... Showed a major up-tick in speed and burst during spring camp, hitting the holes with a new-found ferocity. ... Had career-high 216 rushing yards vs. Washington State last season.

EMERGING STAR

WR Nelson Rosario

Tall, athletic target could become a major player in the Pac-12 if he develops some consistency. ... Had 29 catches for 309 yards last season. ... Flashed potential in the second half of the 2009 season, when he posted two 100-yard receiving games, including a 152-yard effort against Oregon State. ... Made 42 catches for 723 yards in 2009. ... Needs to use his height to become a better red-zone threat.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Brett Hundley

Hundley was rated the No. 5 dual-threat quarterback in the country by Rivals.com, the Bruins' top QB recruit in more than a decade. ... Showed incredible athleticism during spring ball and garnered respect from teammates after graduating from high school early. ... Dual-threat capabilities make him a prime candidate for specific packages and installments. ... Threw for 20 touchdowns with only two interceptions as senior at Chandler (Ariz.) High School.

goals with him. The new guy could be Kip Smith, the top-rated kicker in the class of 2010. Smith has struggled with his accuracy from long range during practice; if he starts slowly, he could be usurped by punter Jeff Locke.

Neuheisel would like to keep Locke at his more natural position, though, as the junior ranks among the best in the country. Locke led the Pac-10 and finished fifth nationally last season at 45.8 yards per punt.

The Bruins are counting on a healthier Josh Smith to provide a needed boost in the return game. Smith was named All-Big-12 as a sophomore at Colorado in 2008 before transferring to UCLA, but he averaged just 22.6 yards per kick return last season while battling injuries.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Bruins' first month is a bit tricky, with a road matchup at Houston and a home date with Texas. However, UCLA defeated both the Cougars and Longhorns last season by wide margins, and the Bruins have to feel confident with those results.

If the Bruins can get off to a good start and build some momentum, Neuheisel's seat will cool off a bit, but he must be wary as UCLA hits the meat of the Pac-12 schedule in the next six weeks: games at Stanford, Oregon State and Arizona, and home dates with Washington State, Cal and Arizona State.

By the time contests against new Pac-12 foes Utah and Colorado come around — and certainly before the season-ending matchup with USC — Neuheisel's fate could be sealed, either way.

— Jon Gold

UTAH UTES

For more coverage of the Utes, visit utah.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Norm Chow **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kalani Sitake** **STADIUM: Rice-Eccles Stadium: 45,017**

AT A GLANCE

2010:
10-3, 7-1 MWC (2nd)

COACH:
Kyle Whittingham — At Utah and overall: 58-20, 6 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
13; 7 offense, 5 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Jordan Wynn, WR DeVonte Christopher, OL Tony Bergstrom, OL John Cullen, DL Star Lotulelei, LB Chaz Walker, LB Brian Blechen, LB Matt Martinez

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Utah is loaded at linebacker. Blechen, a Freshman All-American, was moved from safety in spring ball and joins senior standouts Walker, Martinez and J.J. Williams in the primary rotation. The Utes have great depth on the defensive line and may use as many as eight players in the rotation.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The secondary will feature four new starters. In addition to graduation losses and Blechen's position change, cornerback Brandon Burton left a year early to play in NFL. The Utes are also inexperienced at running back. The depth chart is void of anyone with a major college rushing attempt.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Matt Asiata, RB Eddie Wide, WR Jereme Brooks, WR/RET Shaky Smithson, OL Caleb Schlauderaff, OL Zane Taylor, DL Christian Cox, DL Sealver Siliga, DB Brandon Burton, K Joe Phillips

OVERVIEW:
Utah makes the jump from the Mountain West Conference to the Pac-12 with 52 returning lettermen. The Utes have won 10 or more games in each of the past three seasons, but may be hard-pressed to do it again with their strength of schedule greatly enhanced. Playing in a bowl game for the ninth straight year, however, appears to be quite attainable.

Now is Their Chance: Utes Must Prove They Belong

It won't take long for Utah to find out how it stands in the Pac-12. The Utes, making the jump from the Mountain West Conference this fall, will play in the expanded league's inaugural conference game Sept. 10 at USC.

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham refers to it as a "baptism by fire."

"We'll find out very quickly what the situation is," Whittingham said.

The two-time BCS busters — the Utes defeated Pittsburgh in the 2004 Fiesta Bowl and topped Alabama in the 2009 Sugar Bowl — are eager to make the move to an automatic qualifying conference.

"The players' attitude is great. They're looking forward to the opportunity. At the same time, we realize it's a challenge," Whittingham said. "We're not ignorant to that. We understand that we'll need to bring our 'A' game every week. There's a lot of good football teams in the Pac-12."

The Utes have the resume to rank among them. They've won 10 or more games for three consecutive seasons and have gone to eight straight bowl games, winning seven. Success has been accompanied by solid recruiting.

Now comes a big opportunity to put it to use. Although good football was played in the Mountain West, the Pac-12 is much more balanced, far better at the bottom.

The Utes, however, won't be going in empty handed. To assist in the transition, they added former USC and UCLA offensive coordinator Norm Chow to the coaching staff. His arrival prompted a change in schemes, from a spread offense to a multiple attack.

The move met with the immediate approval of starting quarterback Jordan Wynn. It's more in line with what the junior ran in high school. Besides preventing some hits on Wynn, the scheme change should also give the Utes a more effective downhill running game.

OFFENSE

Finding a replacement, or replacements, for co-starters Matt Asiata and Eddie Wide at running back is a work in progress. A trio of candidates, who all lack major college experience, enters fall camp in a virtual three-way tie.

The competitors include early enrollee Harvey Langi from nearby Bingham High School, junior college transfer John White and rugby star Thretton Palamo.

"None of the three created enough separation in the spring to have a true depth chart," Whittingham said. "So they're all going to get equal opportunities in the fall."

Things are much more established at receiver.

DeVonte Christopher, Dres Anderson, Reggie Dunn, Anthony Denham, Dexter Ransom, Luke Matthews and Sean Fitzgerald give Utah a strong receiving corps. Tight ends Kendrick Moeai and Westlee Tonga will also be on the receiving end of throws from Jordan Wynn, who passed for 2,334 yards and 17 touchdowns in 10 games last season.

Utah's scheme change will include more use of a fullback. Former tight end Dallin Rogers, a junior, is expected to be a factor at the position. Redshirt freshman Jake Murphy, the son of former major league slugger Dale Murphy, could also be in the mix.

Utah returns a majority of last year's starters on the line. Senior tackles Tony Bergstrom and John Cullen are honors candidates and valuable leaders. They'll be joined by junior center Tevita Stevens, who moves back to his natural position after two years as a starting guard.

The Utes' top priority will be keeping Wynn healthy. He's the only experienced quarterback in the program. Sophomore Griff Robles and freshman Tyler Shreve are the backups. Whittingham said they made tremendous strides in spring ball, getting a lot of reps while Wynn recovered from shoulder surgery he had in December.

Brian Blechen
Photo by Ron Chenoy-US PRESSWIRE

UTES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
39	Kalen Adams	LB	6-0	220	So.	Kaysville
91	James Aiono	DT	6-4	290	Sr.	West Valley City
	Siaosi Aiono	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	West Covina, CA
34	Kaeo Alo	RB		228	So.	Orem
45	Boo Andersen	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Sandy
87	Dres Anderson	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Riverside, CA
57	Isaac Asiata	OL	6-3	313	Fr.	Spanish Fork
70	Tony Bergstrom	OL	6-6	315	Sr.	Salt Lake City
35	Greg Bird	DB	6-2	213	Sr.	Mesa, AZ
9	Conroy Black	DB	6-0	184	Sr.	Miramar, FL
4	Brian Blechen	LB	6-2	222	So.	Moorpark, CA
	Tevita Bloomfield	LB	6-0	230	Fr.	West Valley City
74	Sam Brenner	OL	6-3	300	Jr.	Oceanside, CA
48	Afa Bridenstine	LB			Fr.	Kahuku, HI
35	Darron Brown	RB		219	Sr.	East Palo Alto, CA
	Joseph Bryant	DB	6-4	194	Fr.	Bryan, TX
9	David Carter	WR		177	Sr.	Inglewood, CA
19	Quade Chappuis	DB	5-11	196	So.	Alpine
10	DeVonte Christopher	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
48	Wise Cilumba	RB		231	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
27	Jake Cook	RB	5-10	192	So.	Salt Lake City
77	John Cullen	OL	6-5	295	Sr.	La Mirada, CA
53	Eric Dago	DE	6-2	243	So.	Houston, TX
	Anthony Denham	WR	6-4	231	Jr.	Monterey Park, CA
14	Olivier Diansongi	DB	5-11	181	So.	Salt Lake City
14	Reggie Dunn	WR	6-0	170	Jr.	Compton, CA
51	Dave Fagergren	LB	6-0	219	Jr.	Salt Lake City
	Nate Fakahafua	DE	6-3	196	Fr.	Salt Lake City
	Seni Fauonuku	DL	6-0	290	Fr.	West Jordan
7	V.J. Fehoko	LB	6-0	220	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
97	Tevita Finau	DL	6-5	288	Sr.	Lahaina, HI
83	Sean Fitzgerald	WR	6-3	205	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
23	Wykie Freeman	DB	5-11	172	So.	Pasadena, TX
67	Jason Gardner	OL	6-3	284	Fr.	Ada, MI
6	Kenneth Golladay	K	5-9	183	Sr.	Mesa, AZ
62	Patrick Greene	SN	6-2	227	Jr.	Monrovia, CA
31	Marco Gupton	RB		209	Fr.	Salisbury, NC
40	Jacoby Hale	LB	6-0	219	Fr.	Beaumont, TX
68	Latu Heimuli	DT	6-3	310	So.	Salt Lake City
	Charles Henderson	WR	5-9	172	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
18	Phil Hinson	WR		181	Jr.	Salt Lake City
25	Mike Honeycutt	DB	5-10	179	So.	Cedar Hills
30	Chandler Johnson	WR	5-11	174	Fr.	South Jordan
64	Vyncent Jones	OL	6-3	295	So.	Sandy
	Benji Kemoeatu	OL	6-5	350	Jr.	Kahuku, HI
	Daniel Kristensen	OL	6-5	257	Fr.	Salt Lake City
44	Dave Kruger	DL	6-5	280	Jr.	Orem
99	Joe Kruger	DE	6-7	264	So.	Orem
26	Ryan Lacy	DB	5-10	185	Jr.	Antelope, CA
21	Harvey Langi	RB	6-1	221	Fr.	South Jordan
17	Mo Lee	WR	6-1	193	Jr.	Miami, FL
85	Zach Liston	WR		183	Fr.	Sandy
92	Star Lotulelei	DT	6-4	310	Jr.	South Jordan
30	Nick Marsh	K/P	5-11	190	So.	Petaluma, CA
52	Matt Martinez	LB	6-0	224	Sr.	Murray
11	Luke Matthews	RB	6-1	206	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
	Keith McGill	DB	6-3	200	Jr.	La Mirada, CA
16	Griff McNabb	WR	5-8	166	So.	Pocatello, ID
12	Devin Mickles	DB	5-9	170	Fr.	Ogden
47	Max Moala	RB	5-11	243	Jr.	Salt Lake City
81	Kendrick Moeai	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	West Jordan
18	Tyron Morris-Edwards	DB	6-1	198	Fr.	Draper
82	Jake Murphy	TE/FB	6-4	256	Fr.	Alpine
78	Daniel Nielson	OL	6-6	321	Fr.	Hurricane
	Jared Norris	LB	6-1	232	Fr.	Bakersfield, CA
	Jarrell Oliver	RB	5-9	210	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
22	Thretton Palamo	RB	6-2	237	So.	Sacramento, CA
	Po'u Palelei	OL	6-5	380	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
5	Damian Payne	DB	6-0	200	Fr.	Houston, TX
	Quinton Pedroza	WR	6-2	211	Fr.	Chino, CA
63	Joape Pela	DT	6-2	285	Jr.	East Palo Alto, CA
92	Coleman Petersen	K/P	6-2	191	Jr.	Sandy
44	Lucky Radley	RB	5-9	182	Fr.	Inglewood, CA
88	Dexter Ransom	WR	6-3	218	Sr.	Seguin, TX
33	Terrell Reese	DB	6-0	209	Fr.	Chappell Hill, TX
49	Trevor Reilly	LB	6-5	230	So.	Valley Center, CA
29	Mychal Robinson	RB	5-8	197	Sr.	Salt Lake City
12	Griff Robles	QB	6-4	230	So.	Spanish Fork
	Jordan Robles	OL	6-5	257	Fr.	Woodland Hills
89	Dallin Rogers	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	Placerville, CA
46	Ronan Rogers	DB		202	Fr.	South Jordan
47	David Rolf	DE	6-3	241	Jr.	Salt Lake City
	Eric Rowe	DB	6-1	177	Fr.	Spring, TX
56	Kapua Sai	OL	6-5	307	So.	Kahalu'u, HI
2	Kenneth Scott	WR	6-3	204	Fr.	Fontana, CA
86	Sean Sellwood	P	6-3	200	Jr.	Salt Lake City
90	Derrick Shelby	DE	6-3	263	Sr.	Houston, TX
73	Samu Sitake	OL		295	Jr.	Sandy
8	Tyler Shreve	QB	6-3	213	Fr.	Highland, CA
24	Jamal Smith	DB	6-2	190	So.	Oxnard, CA
20	Joseph Smith	DB	5-9	187	Fr.	Corona, CA
1	Ben Soliven	DB	5-9	185	Jr.	Waipahu, HI
31	Victor Spikes	LB	6-0	219	Jr.	Beaumont, TX
41	Andy St. Pierre	LB		199	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
54	Tevita Stevens	OL	6-1	298	Jr.	Hemet, CA
	Travis Still	WR	6-1	194	Fr.	Spanish Fork
55	J.T. Strong	LB	6-0	226	Fr.	Salt Lake City
43	Lei Talamaivao	DE	6-2	265	Sr.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
79	Percy Taumoelau	OL	6-4	312	So.	Glendale
50	Austin Taylor	LB	6-0	220	Fr.	Kaysville
84	Cameron Taylor	TE		227	Fr.	Sandy
76	Jeremiah Tofaeono	OL	6-3	312	So.	Las Vegas, NV
80	Westlee Tonga	TE/FB	6-4	243	So.	Spring, TX
59	Ron Tongaonevai	DL	6-3	309	Jr.	West Valley City
28	Reggie Topps	DB	5-11	187	Jr.	Prunedale, CA
49	David Toth	OL	6-4	267	Fr.	Clifton, VA
65	Sam Tuione	DL		282	Fr.	South Jordan
58	LT Tuipulotu	DT	6-1	300	So.	Euless, TX
32	Chaz Walker	LB	6-0	216	Sr.	Farmington
36	Lewis Walker	DB		167	Jr.	Salt Lake City
15	Michael Walker	DB	5-9	186	So.	Brenham, TX
37	Chris Washington	DB	6-0	205	So.	Layton
15	John White, IV	RB	5-9	190	Jr.	Torrance, CA
13	J.J. Williams	LB	6-0	220	Sr.	Aurora, CO
37	Karl Williams	RB	6-0	230	So.	Layton
3	Jordan Wynn	QB	6-1	195	Jr.	Oceanside, CA

NOTEBOOK

Norm Chow has returned to his alma mater, and coach **Kyle Whittingham** couldn't be happier. Chow, who lettered at Utah from 1965-67 and earned two degrees from the school, is the Utes new offensive coordinator.

"It was a great opportunity to get a coach of Norm's caliber with us," Whittingham said of his longtime friend. "He's one of the most accomplished offensive coordinators in the history of college football. His resume speaks for itself."

Chow's highly publicized arrival from UCLA isn't the only recent change to Whittingham's coaching staff. Offensive line coach **Tim Davis** and defensive line coach **Chad Kauha'aha'a** have been enlisted to help the Utes after stints at Minnesota and Utah State, respectively.

• Utah's first Pac-12 recruiting class got off to a quick start. Whittingham said that within 10 days of last summer's announcement that the Utes would be switching conferences, they received seven commitments from players who would have gone elsewhere without the affiliation.

To help maintain the momentum, construction of a new $16 million football meeting and training facility is scheduled to begin this fall. It'll include an expanded and updated sports medicine area.

Athletics director **Chris Hill** considers it a critical project for the continued success of Utah's teams, as well for the health and physical performance of the athletes. The new state-of-the-art complex will also be a recruiting asset.

• Call it summer school. Switching conferences comes with a handful of homework because the Utes lack extensive familiarity with teams in the Pac-12.

"We obviously know the teams in the Mountain West inside and out, schematically and personnel wise," Whittingham said. "We've played a few of the Pac-12 teams over the past four or five years, but the majority of them we know very little about. So that's a challenge."

It's something Utah plans to address over the summer by compiling extensive scouting reports on the nine conference foes the Utes are scheduled to face in 2011 — Arizona, Arizona State, California, Colorado, Oregon State, UCLA, USC, Washington and Washington State.

Each of the full-time assistant coaches will take the lead on a team.

UTAH'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010

Robles saw limited action last season, carrying 17 times for 124 yards and attempting just one pass. Shreve is an accomplished baseball pitcher who turned down a chance to play professionally after being drafted in the 10th round by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2010.

DEFENSE

While experience permeates the front seven, things are opposite in the secondary.

A position change for safety Brian Blechen and an early departure to the NFL by cornerback Brandon Burton — along with the graduation losses of Justin Taplin-Ross and Lamar Chapman — have left the Utes looking for new starters at all four spots.

Half the search may have been completed in spring ball. Whittingham said cornerbacks Conroy Black and Ryan Lacy solidified themselves as starters in the base package. Nothing, however, is completely set in stone.

Other candidates include Reggie Topps, who otherwise would be the top nickel back, and former wide receiver Mo Lee. The latter switched positions late in the spring. Whittingham said Lee "looks like he might have a bright future in the secondary."

Many of the projected frontrunners at safety did not participate in spring ball. Michael Walker and Greg Bird are competing for the strong safety job, while highly touted junior college transfer Keith McGill and freshman Eric Rowe are chart toppers at free safety. Joseph Bryant is also expected to contend.

Up front, the Utes will rotate as many as eight linemen. Many have the versatility to play both inside and on the end, allowing the line to remain fresh throughout games.

Key contributors are expected to include brothers Dave and Joe Kruger, as well as Tevita Finau, James Aiono, Derrick Shelby and LT Tuipulotu. Then there is nose tackle Star Lotulelei. The 6-4, 310-pound junior joined the Utes late last summer, worked his way into the rotation and proved he could be dominant.

"He's going to be a force in the middle for us," said Whittingham.

Utah's greatest strength, though, is at linebacker, especially with the addition of Blechen. The hard-hitting sophomore, who was a Freshman All-American at safety last season, is slated to be the starter at "stud" linebacker.

Chaz Walker, who led Utah with 113 tackles last season, is back to man the middle. Fellow senior Matt Martinez returns at rover. And then there's J.J. Williams, a talented linebacker who is expected back after missing most of the 2010 campaign with a slow-healing foot injury.

SPECIAL TEAMS

All-conference kicker Joe Phillips has graduated, leaving Nick Marsh and Coleman Petersen to battle for the job. Marsh handled kickoffs in 2010 and had 17 touchbacks, but he has yet to attempt a field goal or PAT for the Utes.

Star Lotulelei
Photo by Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 152.9 ypg rushing (5th in MWC/62nd NCAA), 236.1 passing (2nd/47th), 389.0 total offense (4th/52nd), 33.1 ppg (3rd/23rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Jordan Wynn*	Jr.	How will he bounce back from shoulder surgery?	Tyler Shreve, Fr.
RB	Harvey Langi	Fr.	Battling John White and Thretton Palamo for job.	John White, Jr.
FB	Dallin Rogers	Jr.	Coaches expect him to make an impact.	Jake Murphy, Fr.
WR	DeVonte Christopher*	Jr.	Caught 39 passes and scored six TDs in 2010.	Anthony Denham, Jr.
WR	Dres Anderson	Fr.	Impressive spring for Flipper Anderson's son.	R. Dunn, Jr./L. Matthews, Jr.*
TE	Kendrick Moeai*	Jr.	One of three experienced tight ends on team.	Westlee Tonga, So.
LT	John Cullen*	Sr.	Came to Utah last year as the top-rated JC lineman.	Kapua Sai, So.
LG	Sam Brenner	Jr.	Top backup a year ago now has a starting role.	Jeremiah Tofaeono, So.
C	Tevita Stevens*	Jr.	Two-year starting guard moves to natural position.	Vyncent Jones, So.
RG	Percy Taumoelau	So.	One of several candidates for the position.	Isaac Asiata, Fr.
RT	Tony Bergstrom*	Sr.	Honors candidate did not give up a sack last year.	Daniel Nielson, Fr.
K	Coleman Petersen	Jr.	Leader of the pack entering fall camp.	Nick Marsh, So.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 111.7 ypg rushing (2nd in MWC/11th NCAA), 225.2 paassing (7th/73rd), 336.9 total defense (3rd/27th), 20.3 ppg (2nd/24th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Dave Kruger*	Jr.	Moves outside after starting at tackle for two seasons.	Tevita Finau, Sr.
DT	James Aiono	Sr.	Former junior college star shining once again.	Joape Pela, Jr.
DT	Star Lotulelei	Jr.	Joined the Utes last August and made quick impact.	LT Tuipulotu, So.
DE	Derrick Shelby*	Sr.	Veteran likely will split time with emerging Kruger.	Joe Kruger, So.
LB	Matt Martinez*	Sr.	Rover was second on team with 91 stops last year.	Jacoby Hale, Fr.
LB	Chaz Walker*	Sr.	Man in the middle led the Utes with 113 tackles in 2010.	J.J. Williams, Sr.
LB	Brian Blechen*	So.	All-American candidate started at safety as a freshman.	Trevor Reilly, So.
CB	Ryan Lacy	Jr.	Converted receiver has athleticism, quickness.	Wykie Freeman, So.
CB	Conroy Black	Sr.	Most experienced returnee joins Lacy with 4.3 speed.	Reggie Topps, Jr.
SS	Michael Walker	So.	Early leader in a spirited competition for the job.	Greg Bird, Sr.
FS	Keith McGill	Jr.	First-team junior college All-American has size, speed.	Eric Rowe, Fr.
P	Sean Sellwood*	Jr.	Pinned 10 punts inside the 20 during sophomore season.	Nick Marsh, So.

*Returning Starter

UTES RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Sioasi Aiono	OL	6-4	290	✪✪✪	West Covina, CA	South Hills
Rated as the No. 51 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 38 offensive tackle…Chose Utah over BYU, Fresno State, Hawaii, New Mexico State, San Diego State and San Jose State.						
Isaac Asiata	OL	6-4	319	✪✪✪	Spanish Fork, UT	Spanish Fork
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 26 offensive guard… Chose Utah over Utah State and Washington.						
Tevita Bloomfield	LB	6-1	230	✪✪	West Valley City, UT	Hunter
Second-team all-state selection in 2010… Selected to play in the rugby All-American game vs. Canada…Also played basketball.						
Joseph Bryant	DB	6-3	195	✪✪✪	Bryan, TX	Bryan
Rated as the nation's No. 60 safety by Rivals.com…Team captain…First-team all-district selection…Chose Utah over SMU.						
Anthony Denham	WR	6-6	215	✪✪✪	Monterey Park, CA	East Los Angeles College
Rated as the nation's No. 30 junior college prospect by Rivals.com… Had 40 catches for 475 yards and seven touchdowns in 2010… Had 1,189 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns in 2009.						
Nate Fakahafua	WR	6-4	195	✪✪✪	Salt Lake City, UT	Highland
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 60 wide receiver… Had 58 receptions for 1,351 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior.						
Viliseni Fauonuku	DT	6-0	290	✪✪✪	West Jordan, UT	Bingham
Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com… Recorded 75 tackles and eight sacks as a senior…Chose Utah over Washington State.						
Charles Henderson	WR	5-10	175	✪✪	New Orleans, LA	McDonogh 35
Had 45 receptions for 1,076 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior…All-state selection…Also participated in track…Chose Utah over Louisiana Tech, Louisiana-Lafayette and Tulane.						
Daniel Kristensen	OL	6-5	263	✪✪	Salt Lake City, UT	Cottonwood Senior
Earned all-region and all-state honors…Also played basketball.						
Harvey Langi	RB	6-1	220	✪✪✪✪	South Jordon, UT	Bingham
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Utah…Rated as the nation's No. 17 running back…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl…Rushed for 1,399 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Keith McGill	DB	6-4	215	✪✪✪✪	Norwalk, CA	Cerritos C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 11 junior college prospect by Rivals.com… Had 37 tackles, seven interceptions, five pass breakups and two blocked kicks in 2010.						
Daniel Nielson	OL	6-6	278	✪✪✪	Hurricane, UT	Hurricane
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 52 offensive tackle…Earned first-team all-state honors as a senior, and first-team all-region as a junior and senior.						
Jared Norris	LB	6-2	228	✪✪✪	Bakersfield, CA	Centennial
Rated as the No. 56 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 30 inside linebacker…All-conference and all-state selection as a senior.						
Jarrell Oliver	RB	5-9	193	✪✪✪	Sugar Land, TX	Dulles
Rated as the No. 71 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 35 running back…Rushed for 893 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior…Rushed for 1,049 yards and 12 TDs as a junior.						
Quinton Pedroza	ATH	6-3	205	✪✪✪	Chino, CA	Chino
Had 54 receptions for 1,078 yards and 16 touchdowns on offense, and 67 tackles and four interceptions on defense as a senior…Chose Utah over Arizona State, Boise State and Utah State.						
Jordan Robles	DE	6-5	238	✪✪✪	Salem, UT	Salem Hills
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 22 weakside defensive end…Earned all-state and all-region honors.						
Eric Rowe	DB	6-2	174	✪✪✪	Klein, TX	Klein
Rated as the No. 50 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 39 safety…Career totals include 201 tackles and nine interceptions.						
Travis Still	WR	6-2	189	✪✪✪	Spanish Fork, UT	Spanish Fork
Rated as the nation's No. 75 wide receiver by Rivals.com…Earned second-team all-state honors as a senior…Chose Utah over BYU.						
John White	RB	5-9	190	✪✪✪	Wilmington, CA	Los Angeles Harbor C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 20 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Rushed for 1,491 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2010…Rushed for 1,036 yards and 18 TDs in 2009.						

A LOOK AT THE UTES

RESULTS

10-3, 7-1

W	PITTSBURGH (OT)	27-24
W	UNLV	38-10
W	at New Mexico	56-14
W	SAN JOSE STATE	56-3
W	at Iowa StATE	68-27
W	at Wyoming	30-6
W	COLORADO STATE	59-6
W	at Air Force	28-23
L	TCU	7-47
L	at Notre Dame	3-28
W	at San Diego State	38-34
W	BYU	17-16
	Las Vegas Bowl	
L	vs. Boise State	3-26

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
J. Wynn	10	186	299	10	62.2	2334	17
T. Cain	10	61	96	2	63.5	703	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
E. Wide	13	149	717	4.8	11	39	55.2
M. Asiata	13	155	695	4.5	8	42	53.5
G. Robles	4	17	124	7.3	0	47	31.0

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Brooks	13	51	633	12.4	4	75	48.7
D. Christopher	12	39	660	16.9	6	71	55.0
E. Wide	13	34	271	8.0	2	31	20.8

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Walker 113, M. Martinez 91, L. Chapman 67
Tackles for loss: L. Chapman 10.5, C. Cox 8.5, C. Walker 7
Sacks: L. Chapman 6.5, C. Cox 4, three tied with 2
Interceptions: B. Blechen 4, three tied with 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 1	MONTANA STATE	9-3
Sept. 10	at USC	8-5
Sept. 17	at BYU	7-6
Oct. 1	WASHINGTON	7-6
Oct. 8	ARIZONA STATE	6-6
Oct. 15	at Pittsburgh	8-5
Oct. 22	at California	5-7
Oct. 29	OREGON STATE	5-7
Nov. 5	at Arizona	7-6
Nov. 12	UCLA	4-8
Nov. 19	at Washington State	2-10
Nov. 25	COLORADO	5-7

PLAYER PROFILE

Jordan Wynn
Photo by Dennis Hubbard

Things are Clicking For Utes Junior QB

Jordan Wynn says everything has fallen into place.

Aside from shoulder surgery that prevented him from throwing the ball in spring practices, Utah's starting quarterback has plenty to be pleased about. The junior is now running an offense tailored to his skill set, and he is working with a legendary offensive coordinator in Norm Chow.

There's more.

The former Oceanside, Calif., prep star will complete his college career in the Pac-12 instead of the Mountain West Conference.

"It really couldn't have happened any better," Wynn said. "Everything has kind of lined up."

Wynn's recovery is also on track. He started throwing the ball again before summer conditioning began and was free of pain as he increased his frequency and distance.

"Obviously, we would have liked to have him available in spring full time, but the key is that we get a full recovery out of him," said Utah coach Kyle Whittingham. "He'll hit the ground running in two-a-days. I'm confident of that."

Wynn's football IQ is extremely high, Whittingham added, and he has completely digested the new offense Chow has installed. The Utes have scrapped their spread offense in favor of a multiple scheme.

The transition has been eased, in large part, because Wynn and Chow clicked immediately.

"It's great working with him. He's a great coach. He's been around the game for so long and he's got so much experience," Wynn said, while noting Chow has worked with Heisman Trophy winners and has worked in the NFL.

"I love the system that's in. It was no secret that I'm not a dual-threat quarterback. So it'll be nice to get back to taking three- and five-step drops and play-action."

Utah's offense is similar to the one Wynn directed in high school.

"We feel it's going to be a much better fit for his skills," Whittingham said of the only quarterback in the program with extensive major college experience.

Wynn is 11-4 as the Utes' starter and has thrown for 3,663 yards and 25 touchdowns over his first two seasons. As a freshman, Wynn earned Poinsettia Bowl MVP honors in Utah's victory over California.

Wynn's sophomore season didn't go as well. He missed two early games with a thumb injury and was sidelined for the Las Vegas Bowl because of shoulder surgery.

"I'll be ready," he said of the upcoming campaign. "I'm hoping to continue to progress. The main thing for me this year is to stay healthy."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Jordan Wynn

Could thrive under new offensive coordinator Norm Chow, who has installed a multiple scheme similar to what Wynn ran in high school. ... Wynn, who was 11-4 as a starter running Utah's spread offense, had surgery on his throwing shoulder in December. He's expected to be completely healthy when the season starts. ... Has passes for 3,663 yards in his first two seasons. ... Went for 362 yards in a key comeback victory at San Diego State last season.

EMERGING STAR

DT Star Lotulelei

Coach Kyle Whittingham expects the athletic 6-4, 310-pound junior to be a major force up front. ... Joined the Utes last August and quickly moved up the depth chart, earning a starting job for the final three games of the season. ... Finished the year with 21 tackles, including 2.5 for loss. Also assisted on a sack. ... Played one season at Snow College (Utah), tallying 52 tackles and three sacks.

TOP NEWCOMER

S Keith McGill

The junior college All-American can step in immediately to fill the void at free safety. ... He was rated the 11th-best junior college prospect by Rivals.com after intercepting seven passes at Cerritos College in California last season. ... Was the Northern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. ... Should add a bit of speed to the secondary. ... Attended La Mirada High School in Southern California.

Sean Sellwood will do the punting for the third consecutive year. He was a second-team Freshman All-American in 2009.

The Utes have a proven specialist in Reggie Dunn, who returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown against Iowa State last season and averaged 29.6 yards per return. Finding a top punt returner, however, is a priority after losing Shaky Smithson to graduation. He led the nation in punt returns last season.

A bevy of athletic players, such as Dres Anderson and Griff McNabb, gives Utah plenty of options. Ryan Lacy and Luke Matthews are among the candidates to join Dunn on kickoff returns.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Utah faces a couple of big early tests on the road.

The first is a visit to USC for the inaugural Pac-12 football game on Sept. 10.
A week later, the Utes head to BYU for the annual rivalry game with the Cougars — a clash that has traditionally taken place at the end of the year, but had to be moved up when Utah switched conferences.

A trip to Pittsburgh completes a challenging non-conference schedule.

Utah closes out its initial Pac-12 regular season with home dates against Oregon State, UCLA and Colorado that are separated by road games at Arizona and Washington State. It will cap a tough slate for the Utes, even without projected North division frontrunners Oregon and Stanford on the schedule.

— Dirk Facer

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

For more coverage of the Huskies, visit washington.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Doug Nussmeier **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Nick Holt **STADIUM:** Husky Stadium: 72,500

AT A GLANCE

2010:
7-6, 5-4 Pac-10 (T-3rd)

COACH:
Steve Sarkisian – At Washington and overall: 12-13, 2 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
15; 6 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
TB Chris Polk, WR Jermaine Kearse, TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins, DT Alameda Ta'amu, LB Cort Dennison, CB Desmond Trufant

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The offense is loaded with playmakers, which should take pressure off the new quarterback. The defense could be much improved. Ta'amu has as much ability as any DT in the Pac-12, and the line is as talented as UW has had in a while. The experienced corners should allow the Huskies to be more aggressive and versatile on defense.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
It will take a lot to replace all that Jake Locker brought physically and intangibly. The offensive line will be young. And while hope is high for the defense to improve — the unit struggled mightily at times last season — it must step up to stop top-flight offenses at Oregon and Stanford.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Jake Locker, LB Mason Foster, SS Nate Williams

OVERVIEW:
The Huskies appear on the right track under Steve Sarkisian, who led UW to its first winning season since 2002. But a new quarterback, a still-evolving offensive line and a not-yet elite defense could make it tough for the Huskies to advance much beyond the accomplishments of last year. A minor bowl bid seems to be a reasonable expectation.

Lockers Aren't Empty for the Huskies in New Pac-12

The face of Washington football for the past five years is gone.

But the foundation should now be sturdy enough to withstand the loss of celebrated quarterback Jake Locker, who became a first-round pick of the Tennessee Titans.

"There's a lot of work that still needs to be done," said coach Steve Sarkisian.

Foremost among the work issues is figuring out who replaces Locker. He might not have quite scaled the heights some expected when he arrived in 2006, but he ultimately got UW back on the winning track, leading the Huskies to a 7-6 record and a Holiday Bowl victory in 2010 — Washington's first winning season since 2002.

Sophomore Keith Price and redshirt freshman Nick Montana battled through the spring, with Price emerging as the favorite.

Aside from Locker and a few defensive standouts, such as linebacker Mason Foster, however, most of the key players return.

So, too, does Washington's entire coaching staff for the third straight year, as Sarkisian signed a new five-year deal after the season. All nine assistants have new contracts in hand, as well, giving the program stability it hasn't had since the end of the Don James era.

It's too early yet to say definitively that Sarkisian will return UW to those halcyon days, although Washington fans were hopeful after the Huskies won their last four games in 2010 to pull out of a mid-season tailspin.

Many diehard fans liked the way UW won those four games even better — with gritty defense and an offense centered on the run — a style Sarkisian said he's happy to embrace even more.

"I thought we ended the year in 2010 as being a very physical football team," he said. "We ran the ball extremely well. We played a physical brand of defense. And that's something we want to piggyback on and continue down that road."

OFFENSE

While the spotlight shined brightest on Jake Locker throughout 2010, the reality was UW was often its most successful when tailback Chris Polk was at his best. Polk rushed for 685 yards on 107 carries during the season-ending four-game winning streak, including 177 yards in the Holiday Bowl against Nebraska.

With UW breaking in a new quarterback, the responsibility could fall even more on Polk — a bruising 214-pounder with deceptive speed. Opponents, though, often designed their defenses to stop the dual-threat of Locker, and it will be interesting to see if Polk can duplicate that success now that he's the focal point.

Opponents this year seem certain to force quarterback Keith Price to win the game.

The easy-going Price started one game last year — a loss at Oregon — earning kudos for his steady hand. He's a good runner who allows UW to keep a lot of the zone read stuff it installed for Locker in the playbook.

Nick Montana, who redshirted last season, is more of a traditional drop-back quarterback. Like his famous father, Joe, he's known more for his ability to make plays than for having a booming arm. He might need a little more time to develop.

Washington should have a much-improved receiving corps, as the Huskies return veterans Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar, while adding two touted freshmen — receiver Kasen Williams and tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins.

Seferian-Jenkins should start immediately and solve last season's frustrations at tight end, which hampered the short passing game. Sophomore Kevin Smith also will be in the mix. He was one of the

Chris Polk
Photo by Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images

HUSKIES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
9	Devin Aguilar	WR	6-0	188	Sr.	Denver, CO
48	Jonathan Amosa	FB	5-11	223	Jr.	Seattle
70	James Atoe	OL	6-6	355	Fr.	The Dalles, OR
81	Marlion Barnett	TE	6-2	215	So.	Corona, CA
86	Peter Becker	LS	6-5	228	Jr.	Issaquah
36	Zach Beebe	SS	6-1	211	Fr.	Sultan
7	Cody Bruns	WR	5-11	177	Sr.	Prosser
15	Victor Burnett	LB	5-11	232	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
24	Jesse Callier	TB	5-10	205	So.	Downey, CA
19	DiAndre Campbell	WR	6-1	182	Fr.	Oakland, CA
27	William Chandler	WR	6-0	184	So.	Sammamish
32	Deontae Cooper	TB	6-0	193	Fr.	Perris, CA
11	Talia Crichton	DE	6-3	246	Jr.	Lakewood, CA
78	Mike Criste	OL	6-5	280	Fr.	Mission Viejo, CA
31	Cort Dennison	LB	6-1	236	Sr.	Salt Lake City, UT
85	Marek Domanski	TE	6-5	248	Jr.	Seattle
18	Gregory Ducre	CB	5-10	170	So.	Los Angeles, CA
42	Ken Egu	FS	5-10	181	Fr.	San Francisco, CA
67	Skyler Fancher	OT	6-5	303	Sr.	Costa Mesa, CA
29	Nate Fellner	S	6-1	201	Jr.	Fresno, CA
35	Sampson Fletcher	CB	6-0	197	So.	Tacoma
23	Johri Fogerson	TB	6-1	207	Sr.	Kent
30	Zach Fogerson	FB	6-0	238	So.	Kent
17	Erik Folk	PK	5-11	197	Sr.	Woodland Hills, CA
37	Princeton Fuimaono	LB	6-0	201	So.	Long Beach, CA
85	Pete Galbraith	DE	6-1	250	Sr.	Deming
53	Garret Gilliland	LB	6-0	215	So.	Anaheim, CA
20	Justin Glenn	S	5-11	203	Jr.	Mukilteo
26	Anthony Gobern	CB	5-11	189	Jr.	Fair Oaks, CA
16	Eric Guttorp	PK	5-7	170	Sr.	Seattle
84	Michael Hartvigson	TE	6-6	246	Fr.	Bothell
72	Micah Hatchie	OL	6-5	274	Fr.	Haleiwa, HI
34	K.C. Herren	S	6-0	207	Fr.	Auburn
93	Andrew Hudson	DE	6-3	231	Fr.	Redlands, CA
80	Evan Hudson	TE	6-6	251	Fr.	Bothell
52	Hau'oli Jamora	DE	6-3	238	So.	Laie, HI
3	James Johnson	WR	6-0	201	Jr.	Valley Center, CA
63	Daniel Kanczugowski	OL	6-4	327	Jr.	Edmonds
58	Jamaal Kearse	LB	6-2	230	Fr.	Lakewood
15	Jermaine Kearse	WR	6-2	205	Sr.	Lakewood
56	Senio Kelemete	OT	6-4	289	Sr.	Seattle
56	Alec Kimble	LB	6-3	211	Fr.	Sammamish
75	Erik Kohler	OL	6-5	306	So.	Camarillo, CA
28	Din Kuses	WR	6-1	188	So.	Edmonds
97	Lawrence Lagafuaina	DT	6-0	344	Fr.	Aiea, HI
83	Luther Leonard	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Seattle
89	Reade Lobdill	WR	5-9	185	Sr.	Arroyo Grande, CA
27	Adam Long	CB	5-10	168	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
60	Brendan Lopez	LS	6-0	226	Sr.	Bellevue
46	Will Mahan	P	5-11	200	Sr.	Bakersfield, CA
42	Kimo Makaula	FB	6-2	229	So.	Kailua, HI
5	Nick Montana	QB	6-3	191	Fr.	Thousand Oaks, CA
1	Sean Parker	S	5-10	200	So.	Los Angeles, CA
43	Cooper Pelluer	LB	6-3	221	So.	Sammamish
38	Marquis Persley	S	6-0	188	Sr.	Redlands, CA
1	Chris Polk	TB	5-11	214	Jr.	Redlands, CA
79	Colin Porter	OL	6-4	307	So.	Bothell
55	Sione Potoa'e	DT	6-2	285	So.	Fort Lewis
17	Keith Price	QB	6-1	192	So.	Compton, CA
94	Kiel Rasp	P	6-3	215	Sr.	Seattle
28	Quinton Richardson	CB	6-0	200	Sr.	Renton
59	Ben Riva	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Seattle
90	Chris Robinson	DT	6-0	258	So.	Tustin, CA
96	Nate Ryals	PK	5-10	180	Fr.	Mountlake Terrace
35	Cole Sager	TB	5-10	196	Jr.	Burlington
87	Cameron Salley	TE	6-4	235	So.	Silverdale
73	Drew Schaefer	C	6-4	281	Jr.	Sammamish
77	Drew Schultz	DL	6-1	241	Fr.	Olympia
88	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	TE	6-6	250	Fr.	Fox Island
13	Will Shamburger	S	6-0	190	So.	Compton, CA
22	Josh Shirley	DE	6-3	225	Fr.	Fontana, CA
8	Kevin Smith	WR	6-0	197	So.	Compton, CA
14	Taz Stevenson	S	6-0	198	So.	Mililani, HI
74	Alameda Ta'amu	DT	6-3	330	Sr.	Kent
64	Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	310	Fr.	Pasadena, CA
92	Everrette Thompson	DE	6-6	244	Sr.	Renton
10	John Timu	LB	6-1	205	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
98	Semisi Tokolahi	DT	6-2	297	Jr.	Hilo, HI
6	Desmond Trufant	CB	6-0	177	Jr.	Tacoma
54	Tim Tucker	LB	6-1	221	So.	Harbor City, CA
3	Thomas Tutogi	LB	6-0	251	So.	Chula Vista, CA
14	Thomas Vincent	QB	6-0	200	Fr.	Seattle
39	Greg Walker	S	5-10	194	Jr.	Bellflower, CA
51	Jordan Wallace	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Sacramento, CA
68	Derek Weston	OL	6-3	263	Fr.	Maple Valley
16	Erik Wilson	QB	6-0	178	So.	Redondo Beach, CA
29	Willis Wilson	TB	5-9	178	Fr.	Lakewood
52	Nick Wood	OL	6-3	287	Sr.	Poway, CA

NOTEBOOK

This will be the last season Washington plays in the current configuration of Husky Stadium, which dates to 1920.

A $250 million renovation will begin in early November, after UW hosts Oregon on Nov. 5. The Huskies moved their season finale on Nov. 26 against Washington State to nearby Qwest Field, the home of the Seahawks, to get a head start on the renovation.

Notably, the renovation will remove a track that circles the field. There will also be a new football operations center above the west end zone.

The school has been attempting to get the renovation going for about a decade, having staged a public campaign a few years ago, pointing out the stadium's increasing safety issues. Two attempts to get some public funding failed, however, and the school will fund the renovation on its own, in large part through revenue generated by the stadium. The increased payout from the conference's new TV deals will also help.

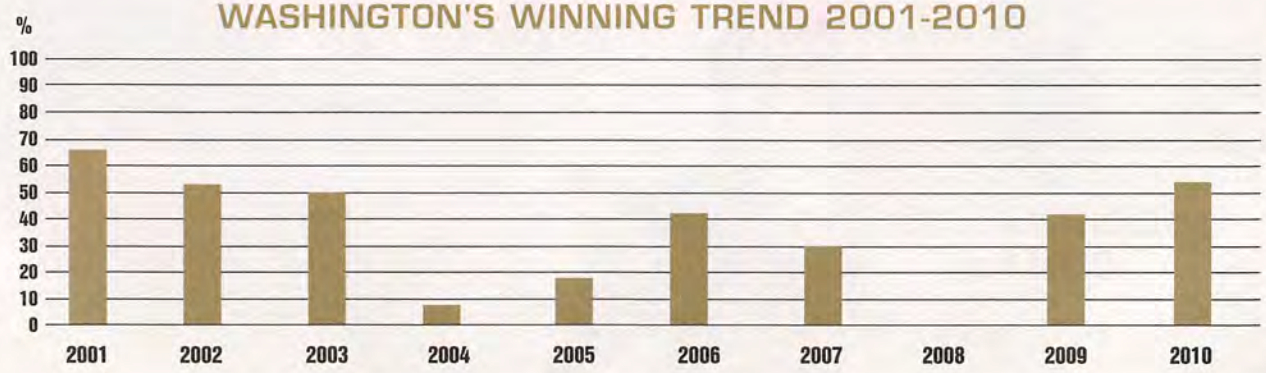
Washington will play the 2012 season at Qwest before returning to the renovated stadium in 2013. The first game in the new stadium will come against Boise State.

• Coach **Steve Sarkisian** hit a home run last season in his quest to keep the best in-state players at home. He signed all five of the players rated as the best in the state by the *Seattle Times* — led by receiver Kasen Williams, the *Parade* Player of the Year, and consensus four-star tight end **Austin Seferian-Jenkins**.

Some recruiting analysts consider the state's 2012 recruits even better, or at least deeper, and the Huskies got off to a nice start when they got a commitment from four-star quarterback **Jeff Lindquist** of the Seattle suburb of Mercer Island. Lindquist's brother is a pitcher at Stanford, and he seriously considered the Cardinal before deciding to stay home.

The two most highly touted recruits are five-star offensive linemen Zach Banner of Lakewood and Joshua Garnett of Puyallup. Both are sons of former Huskies — Banner's biological father is Lincoln Kennedy. Garnett's father, Scott, also played in the NFL.

WASHINGTON'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



stars of spring after playing sparingly last season after breaking his thumb.

The line could be as much of a concern as the quarterback situation. UW lost three linemen who started a combined 91 games in their careers — two who were regular starters in 2010. As many as four true sophomores or redshirt freshmen spent time working with the starting unit in the spring.

DEFENSE

The Huskies appeared to be regressing defensively for the first two-thirds of 2010.

But they got back on track against some struggling offenses late in the year, then seemed to validate that success with the shocking turnaround in the Holiday Bowl, beating Nebraska 19-7 after the Cornhuskers had defeated UW 56-21 in Seattle in September.

Seven starters return from that defense, and the Huskies are particularly optimistic about the line and the secondary.

"I think (the defensive line) should be one of the strong points of our team because we've got a lot of guys back that have played a lot of football, plus we've got a couple of guys that redshirted that have a lot of potential," said defensive coordinator Nick Holt.

Anchoring the line are tackle Alameda Ta'amu, and ends Everrette Thompson and Hau'oli Jamora. Redshirt freshman end Josh Shirley was a spring star; his emergence had the Huskies experimenting with some five-man defensive fronts.

A key to making that work is the return of starting cornerbacks Desmond Trufant and Quinton Richardson, who lead a pass defense that allowed only 15 passing touchdowns last season. Starting free safety Nate Fellner also returns.

"We've got experienced corners that are used to playing man coverage and are getting more and more comfortable doing that," Sarkisian said. "So, it's allowing us to call more man things and be able to get into some real rush situations with a five-man rush."

At linebacker, only Cort Dennison returns with significant experience. The Huskies will have to replace weakside linebacker Mason Foster, the team's leading tackler a year ago and best overall player, as well as strongside linebacker Victor Aiyewa.

The Huskies probably have a deeper, stronger and more athletic defense from top to bottom, though the jury remains out on how well UW can handle superior offenses such as Oregon and Stanford, teams it has to compete against in the new Pac-12 North.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Washington returns all of its kickers, snappers, holders and returners.

Placekicker Erik Folk slumped late last season but has proven clutch in two years as the starter. UW also returns two punters with starting experience in Will Mahan

Jermaine Kearse
Photo by Dave Sizer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 172.2 ypg rushing (5th in Pac-10/38th NCAA), 190.4 passing (8th/84th), 362.5 total offense (6th/76th), 21.9 ppg (8th/96th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Keith Price	So.	Used the spring to take a lead on Nick Montana, Joe's son.	Nick Montana, Fr.
RB	Chris Polk*	Jr.	Had 1,415 yards last season — second in UW history.	Jesse Callier, So.
WR	Jermaine Kearse*	Sr.	Drops way too many, but still caught 63 in 2010.	Kasen Williams, Fr.
WR	Devin Aguilar*	Sr.	Battled injuries last year, but has 90 catches for his career.	Cody Bruns, Sr.
WR	Kevin Smith	So.	Ready for more after making a couple of starts in 2010.	DiAndre Campbell, Fr.
TE	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	Fr.	6-6, 250-pounder gives UW needed presence at this spot.	Michael Hartvigson, Fr.
LT	Senio Kelemete*	Sr.	Sarkisian says flat-out he has all-conference ability.	Micah Hatchie, Fr.
LG	Colin Tanigawa	Fr.	Redshirt replaces four-year OL mainstay Ryan Tolar.	Erik Kohler, So.
C	Drew Schaefer*	Jr.	Smart player who will be counted on for leadership up front.	Daniel Kanczugowski, Jr.
RG	Colin Porter*	So.	Strongest player on line; started six games as true frosh.	James Atoe, Fr.
RT	Ben Riva	Fr.	Surprised in spring to emerge as a starter here.	Erik Kohler, So.
K	Erik Folk*	Sr.	Has beaten USC on last-second kicks past two years.	Eric Guttorp, Sr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 190.5 ypg rushing (8th in Pac-10/97th NCAA), 194.4 passing (2nd/27th), 384.9 total defense (6th/70th), 29.3 ppg (8th/80th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Hau'oli Jamora*	So.	Fast, quick; stronger than size indicates.	Andrew Hudson, Fr.
NT	Alameda Ta'amu*	Sr.	Strongest player on DL; immovable force at 330 pounds.	Lawrence Lagafuaina, Fr.
DT	Sione Potoa'e	So.	Will have to show progress in fall to keep starting spot.	Semisi Tokolahi, Jr.
DE	Everrette Thompson*	Sr.	Versatile player also started at DT last year.	Josh Shirley, Fr.
LB	Garret Gilliland	So.	Moved from MLB in attempt to get best three LBs on field.	Jordan Wallace, Jr.
LB	Cort Dennison*	Sr.	Doesn't impress physically, but great smarts, instincts.	Thomas Tutogi, So.
LB	Princeton Fuimaono	So.	Limited in spring (shoulder); position is wide open.	John Timu, Fr.
CB	Quinton Richardson*	Sr.	Good size, improving on coverage, ball skills.	Greg Ducre, So.
CB	Desmond Trufant*	Jr.	Struggled early last season but rebounded late.	Anthony Gobern, Jr.
SS	Sean Parker	So.	Touted player battled stinger injury late last season, spring.	Taz Stevenson, So.
FS	Nate Fellner*	Jr.	Hard-hitter making fewer mistakes, becoming a leader.	Will Shamburger, So.
P	Kiel Rasp*	Sr.	Walk-on was a revelation when forced into duty in 2010.	Will Mahan, Sr.

*Returning Starter

HUSKIES RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Derrick Brown	QB	6-3	230	✪✪✪	Murrieta, CA	Vista Murrieta
Rated as the No. 55 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 22 dual-threat quarterback… Passed for 1,601 yards and 19 touchdowns, and rushed for 1,037 and 19 scores as a senior.						
Dexter Charles	OL	6-5	290	✪✪✪	Stanwood, WA	Stanwood
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 77 offensive tackle…Chose Washington over Arizona and Washington State.						
Connor Cree	DE	6-5	225	✪✪✪	Sammamish, WA	Skyline
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 56 strongside defensive end.						
Travis Feeney	DB	6-3	200	✪✪✪	Pinole, CA	Pinole Valley
First-team all-area selection…Helped lead team to an 11-1-1 record in 2010…Chose Washington over Arizona.						
Jarett Finau	DE	6-3	235	✪✪	Kirkland, WA	Juanita
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Arizona, Utah State and Washington State.						
Marvin Hall	WR	5-10	175	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Dorsey
Caught 31 passes for 673 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior…Second-team all-city selection…Helped lead team to a 10-2 record in 2010.						
Jamaal Jones	WR	6-2	185	✪✪✪	Graham, WA	Graham-Kapowsin
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com… Missed senior season due to injury…Also played basketball.						
Scott Lawyer	LB	6-2	200	✪✪	San Jose, CA	Oak Grove
Earned first-team all-league and second-team all-area honors…Recorded 69 tackles and seven sacks as a senior.						
Matthew Lyons	LB	6-2	178	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Dorsey
Rated as the No. 79 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 50 outside linebacker…Recorded 117 tackles and four interceptions as a senior.						
Josh Perkins	WR	6-3	200	✪✪✪	Cerritos, CA	Gahr
Rated as the No. 77 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Idaho, Minnesota, San Diego State and San Jose State.						
Marcus Peters	DB	6-1	174	✪✪✪	Oakland, CA	McClymonds
Rated as the No. 43 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 30 cornerback…Helped lead team to 12-0 record in 2010.						
Dezden Petty	RB	6-2	230	✪✪	Gardena, CA	Gardena
Second-team all-city selection…Saw time at running back, quarterback and linebacker in high school.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
James Sample	DB	6-2	195	✪✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Grant
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 15 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 9 safety…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Bishop Sankey	RB	5-9	183	✪✪✪✪	Spokane, WA	Gonzaga Prep
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 19 running back…Rushed for 4,355 career yards.						
Austin Seferian-Jenkins	TE	6-6	250	✪✪✪✪	Gig Harbor, WA	Gig Harbor
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 2 tight end…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Danny Shelton	DT	6-3	300	✪✪✪✪	Auburn, WA	Auburn
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 10 defensive tackle…Participated in Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Antavius Sims	QB	6-2	200	✪✪✪	Ventura, CA	Ventura C.C.
Completed 165-of-299 pass attempts for 1,956 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2010… Also rushed for 1,014 yards and 15 touchdowns.						
Siosifa Tufunga	OL	6-3	300	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Jordan
Second-team all-league selection… Could play offensive guard or center.						
Taniela Tupou	DE	6-2	260	✪✪✪	Everett, WA	Archbishop Murphy
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 32 strongside defensive end…Chose Washington over BYU and Washington State.						
Thomas Tutogi	LB	6-1	235	✪✪✪	Chula Vista, CA	Southwestern C.C.
Earned first-team all-league honors…Had 120 tackles with 17.5 tackles for loss in 2010…Enrolled at Washington in January.						
Corey Waller	LB	6-1	210	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 32 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 19 outside linebacker… Recorded 82 tackles and 10 sacks as a junior.						
Kasen Williams	WR	6-2	197	✪✪✪✪	Sammamish, WA	Skyline
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 13 wide receiver…Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl…Had 4,121 career receiving yards and 56 touchdowns.						
Evan Zeger	DB	6-2	200	✪✪✪	Las Vegas, NV	Bishop Gorman
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Nevada by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 28 safety…Recorded 73 tackles and five interceptions as a senior.						

A LOOK AT THE HUSKIES

RESULTS

	7-6, 5-4	
L	at BYU	17-23
W	SYRACUSE	41-20
L	NEBRASKA	21-56
W	at USC	32-31
L	ARIZONA STATE	14-24
W	OREGON STATE (2OT)	35-34
L	at Arizona	14-44
L	STANFORD	0-41
L	at Oregon	16-53
W	UCLA	24-7
W	at California	16-13
W	at Washington State	35-28
	Holiday Bowl	
W	vs. Nebraska	19-7

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
J. Locker	12	184	332	9	55.4	2265	17
K. Price	8	19	37	0	51.4	164	2

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Polk	13	260	1415	5.4	9	72	108.8
J. Callier	13	77	433	5.6	0	39	33.3
J. Locker	12	114	385	3.4	6	54	32.1

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Kearse	13	63	1005	16.0	12	66	77.3
D. Goodwin	13	44	530	12.0	4	80	40.8
D. Aguilar	11	28	352	12.6	2	44	32.0

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: M. Foster 161, N. Williams 105, C. Dennison 93
Tackles for loss: V. Aiyewa 22.5, M. Foster 12.5, C. Dennison 8.5
Sacks: M. Foster 6.5, V. Aiyewa 4.5, N. Williams 3.5
Interceptions: N. Fellner 5, C. Dennison 2, Q. Richardson 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	EASTERN WASHINGTON	13-2
Sept. 10	HAWAII	10-4
Sept. 17	at Nebraska	10-4
Sept. 24	CALIFORNIA	5-7
Oct. 1	at Utah	10-3
Oct. 15	COLORADO	5-7
Oct. 22	at Stanford	12-1
Oct. 29	ARIZONA	7-6
Nov. 5	OREGON	12-1
Nov. 12	at USC	8-5
Nov. 19	at Oregon State	5-7
Nov. 26	vs. Washington State (Qwest Field)	2-10

PLAYER PROFILE

Alameda Ta'amu
Photo by Jesse Beals/ Icon SMI

Ta'amu Looks to Add To Career Highlights

The highlight play of Washington's Holiday Bowl victory might have come in the fourth quarter. Nose tackle Alameda Ta'amu blew through Nebraska's offensive line to force a holding call in the end zone and a safety — the last points of the Huskies' shocking 19-7 win.

Like many fans, Ta'amu initially wanted to watch the play again and again.

But then he decided he'd seen enough.

"I shouldn't be excited to watch that anymore," Ta'amu said. "That should be the way I play every game."

If he can, UW coaches say the sky is the limit for the 6-3, 330-pound senior.

Especially now that he's in shape.

"Really, he can be as good as he wants to be," said UW defensive coordinator Nick Holt, who saw a lot of good ones during his years helping run the defense for Pete Carroll at USC.

Ta'amu graduated from Rainier Beach High in Seattle, more noted for producing a slew of basketball players such as Jamaal Crawford and Nate Robinson. There, he was a dominating lineman regarded as one of the best in the West before breaking his foot late his senior year.

The subsequent inactivity helped him balloon to 380 pounds when he arrived at UW in the fall of 2008. Sheer talent got him on the field immediately, but it wasn't until last season, when he finally got under the 340 range, that he began to play to his potential.

Ta'amu also revealed in the spring that he became a father during his freshman year, which also added to some responsibilities earlier in his career. But now, he says, he's not only slimmer, but a little older and wiser, as well.

"Now I'm losing weight and I feel like I am doing more things that I didn't think I could do," he says.

He was never better than in the last two games against Washington State and Nebraska, as he controlled the middle of the line and forced the offense to go elsewhere. UW coaches hope those performances serve as a template for 2011.

"You look at the last two games, he basically dominated those two games," said defensive line coach Johnny Nansen.

"And that's the challenge. That's what I tell him every day in the huddle, 'Hey, if you are going to be an All-American you've got to play like it and push.' And I think he is starting to respond."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Chris Polk

A fourth-year junior, he decided against declaring for the NFL Draft after rushing for 1,415 yards in 2010. ... First player in UW history to break the 1,000-yard mark in each of his first two seasons. ... Originally committed to USC when Steve Sarkisian was offensive coordinator there before mother helped turn him to UW, thinking he'd have a better chance to play immediately. ... A tough, physical runner who showed increasing breakaway speed as the season progressed.

EMERGING STAR

DE Hau'oli Jamora

Broke into lineup midway through last season as a true freshman and gave UW the speed off the edge it had been seeking. ... Despite playing sparingly early, he finished with 49 tackles and capped the season with three tackles for loss in the Holiday Bowl win over Nebraska. ... UW will pair him with redshirt frosh Josh Shirley this year for bookend speed pass rushers. ... Named UW's Most Outstanding Freshman at the end of the season.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Kasen Williams

Williams, the son of former Washington wide receiver Aaron Williams, was the *Parade* Player of the Year. ... He's a big, physical receiver who reminds many of former Husky standout Reggie Williams, a first-round pick in 2004. ... May share top newcomer honors by season's end with tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins, who enrolled in time for spring ball and showed he could make a big impact this season as a pass-catcher, giving UW a weapon at that position it has lacked for years.

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and Kiel Rasp. Rasp set a school record with an average of 43.8 yards per attempt after he assumed the job for an injured Mahan after the first game.

The Huskies have had perplexing issues in the return game in Sarkisian's first two years, despite some obvious talent. Incoming freshmen will have a chance to get in the mix. Kevin Smith, though, could solve the kickoff return woes, and receiver Devin Aguilar is among those with experience handling punts.

Washington was woeful at times a year ago covering kickoffs and punts, improving late in the season by relying on a number of starting defenders. The coaches may resort to that again this year.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

For years, UW has played some of the toughest schedules in the country. But the Huskies have made a conscious effort to soften the slates, hoping that will ease the road back to contention.

Washington will play its first lower-division foe this year, though it picked the best one available — defending FCS champ Eastern Washington. That's followed by a home game with Hawaii, which allows UW a great opportunity to start 2-0 for what would be only the second time since 2001.

That ends the easy part of the schedule. A trip to Nebraska follows and then there are nine Pac-12 games. The Huskies play both newcomers — Colorado at home and at Utah — while UCLA and Arizona State drop off the schedule.

— Bob Condotta

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

For more coverage of the Cougars, visit washingtonstate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Sturdy | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Chris Ball | **STADIUM:** Martin Stadium: 35,117

AT A GLANCE

2010:
2-10, 1-8 Pac-10 (10th)

COACH:
Paul Wulff — At WSU: 5-32, 3 years; overall: 58-72, 11 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
15; 8 offense, 7 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Jeff Tuel, RB Rickey Galvin, WR Marquess Wilson, WR Jared Karstetter, OL David Gonzales, DE Travis Long, LB Alex Hoffman-Ellis, S Deone Bucannon

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Throwing and catching. Tuel should climb into the upper echelon of Pac-12 quarterbacks with the help of one of the most gifted receiving corps the school has ever had — providing the senior-heavy offensive line is also a strength. The Cougars have done well to assemble a talented secondary that's still young.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
It starts with defense, which is where it's supposed to stop. The Cougars were 118th among 120 teams last year, one reason veterans Todd Howard and Chris Tormey were imported to coach the line and linebackers, and Ball was given the sole responsibility as coordinator. The kicking game could use some work, too.

KEY LOSSES:
RB James Montgomery, C Zack Williams, DE Kevin Kooyman, LB Myron Beck, P Reid Forrest

OVERVIEW:
This is, without question, Wulff's make-or-break year. To "make it," he needs to keep key personnel healthy and get some stops from one of the nation's worst defenses of late. He could get some help from the schedule: All of the first five games are winnable before it takes a turn for the nasty.

What Wulff Knows: Win Now or Else

It may have just been business as usual, but it wasn't benign.

As the questions about Paul Wulff continued to pile up with the defeats, it wasn't until after his third straight double-digit loss season that a tardy, lukewarm endorsement came from the athletic director, suggesting that Bill Moos either couldn't rustle up the funds for a buyout or that no replacement splashy enough could be convinced to take the job.

Then came a booster function over the winter, at which the Cougars introduced new uniforms with a tweaked color scheme, and Moos bragged on a new 18-wheeler that will haul football gear to the six road games on the 2011 schedule.

"Seven with a bowl game," Moos added, just in case Wulff didn't know the bottom line.

The worst stretch of football in WSU history — 5-32 in three years — needs to come to an end for Wulff to remain relevant. Or just remain.

As the expanded Pac-12 Conference comes into being, the last thing the Cougars can afford is to dig themselves further into their role as Northwest afterthought. And speaking of "afford," with the bounty of a new television contract on the way, money to lure an energizing successor will no longer be an issue for Moos.

The Cougars are closing the talent gap; a win over Oregon State and some competitive efforts in the last month of 2010 are proof. But until they can play defense well enough to rank in, say, the upper half of the nation's teams and not the worst three percent, they're likely to be just competitive enough to get beat.

Wulff, meanwhile, tends to dismiss all the temperature-taking as "overblown" and couches his own assessments less in "have-tos" and more in "wills."

As in: "We will win football games," he said. "This team is capable of playing in a bowl."

OFFENSE

Quarterback Jeff Tuel has more support around him, but it's hard to imagine any program hoisting its hopes so directly on the shoulders of a single player.

He's worthy of it. Even through WSU's dismal season, he was in the upper half of Pac-10 quarterbacks in efficiency — ahead of his rivals at OSU, Arizona State, UCLA and Cal in conference play, to say nothing of the eventual first-round NFL draft pick across the state.

"He's exhibited the signs of being an elite quarterback," Wulff said. "A key now is if he sees a few things maybe we haven't prepared for; how quickly does he react in a positive manner? That's the next step for Jeff. He has the mental works upstairs to handle it."

He also has a deep group of receivers who might actually make him better and not just vice versa, led by senior Jared Karstetter and impressive sophomore Marquess Wilson.

This season there are other capable targets — redshirt freshmen Kristoff Williams and Bobby Ratliff, as well as senior Isiah Barton and promising newcomer Isiah Myers.

The Cougars might even mix in a pass to the tight end for a change — Andrei Lintz caught all of one ball in 2010.

The line lost WSU's only NFL draft pick, Zack Williams, but four seniors return, led by 24-game starter B.J. Guerra at guard — but experience won't be nearly enough.

This unit was next-to-worst nationally in sacks allowed and rarely opened holes to get a running game on track. Having David Gonzales back at left tackle after a midseason injury, and sliding replacement John Fullington over to guard, should help.

Jeff Tuel
Photo by Jason O. Watson-US PRESSWIRE

COUGARS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
30	Justin Amundsen	WR	5-10	178	Jr.	Federal Way
68	Brent Anderson	OL	6-1	260	Fr.	Kennewick
19	Gordy Anderson	QB	6-3	215	Fr.	Port Orchard
81	Isiah Barton	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
46	Louis Bland	LB	5-10	221	Jr.	Modesto, CA
71	Matthew Bock	DL	6-2	247	So.	Santa Margarita, CA
31	Blair Bomber	WR	5-8	160	Fr.	Lynden
45	Bennett Bontemps	WR	5-11	188	So.	Puyallup
60	Elliott Bosch	OL	6-4	258	So.	Spokane
70	Zach Brevick	DL	6-4	229	So.	Snoqualmie
23	Leon Brooks	RB	5-7	170	So.	Harbor City, CA
10	Deone Bucannon	S	6-1	186	So.	Fairfield, CA
26	Arthur Burns	RB	5-11	206	So.	Corona, CA
37	Jared Byers	FB	6-0	224	So.	Pullman
4	Anthony Carpenter	CB	6-0	190	So.	Los Angeles, CA
30	Tracy Clark	CB	5-9	181	Fr.	Pittsburg, CA
97	Justin Clayton	DE	6-3	272	So.	Napa, CA
50	Adam Coerper	DE	6-4	245	Jr.	Hood River, OR
96	Xavier Cooper	DE	6-4	265	Fr.	Tacoma
27	Chris Dan-Jumbo	CB	5-10	199	So.	Bothell
37	Tyrone Duckett	LB	5-11	190	Fr.	Alameda, CA
88	Aaron Dunn	TE	6-5	237	Fr.	Spokane
27	Henry Eaddy	WR	5-8	165	Fr.	Orlando, FL
42	Michael Fennerty	TE	6-4	237	Sr.	Olympia
35	Michael Fields	RB	5-8	182	So.	Seattle
36	Dontavious Fleming	WR	5-11	170	So.	Olympia
76	Rico Forbes	OL	6-4	280	Jr.	Houston, TX
77	John Fullington	OL	6-5	268	So.	Belfair
49	Andrew Furney	K	5-10	217	So.	Burlington
5	Rickey Galvin	RB	5-8	162	Fr.	Berkeley, CA
46	Alex Gauper	K	6-4	211	Jr.	Spokane
4	David Gilbertson	QB	6-1	207	So.	Woodinville
32	Brandon Golden	CB	5-11	184	Fr.	Covina, CA
79	David Gonzales	OL	6-6	275	Sr.	Fresno, CA
72	B.J. Guerra	OL	6-3	315	Sr.	Moses Lake
40	Omari Guidry	LB	6-0	209	Sr.	Seattle
13	Connor Halliday	QB	6-4	175	Fr.	Spokane
56	Anthony Hammock	LB	5-11	212	Fr.	Oakridge, OR
62	Tim Hodgdon	OL	6-3	291	So.	Ladera Ranch, CA
94	Steven Hoffart	DT	6-4	269	Jr.	Davis, CA
17	Alex Hoffman-Ellis	LB	6-1	241	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
6	Damante Horton	CB	5-10	160	So.	Oakland, CA
67	William Hurlburt	OL	6-7	285	Fr.	Fallon, NV
55	Wade Jacobson	OL	6-6	304	Sr.	Hollister, CA
58	Zach Johnson	OL	6-4	230	Fr.	Stanwood
78	Joe Kaleta	OT	6-8	314	Fr.	Utica, NY
84	Jared Karstetter	WR	6-4	208	Sr.	Spokane
59	Sekope Kaufusi	DE	6-3	233	So.	Palo Alto, CA
90	Ian Knight	DE	6-2	244	Jr.	Wichita, KS
64	Zach Koepp	LS	6-3	241	Jr.	Milford, AR
25	Manuel Lamson	RB	5-11	186	Fr.	Gridley, CA
43	Corey Laufasa	FB	6-0	228	Jr.	Seattle
61	Anthony Laurenzi	DT	6-3	278	Jr.	Placentia, CA
44	Mike Ledgerwood	LB	6-1	231	Sr.	Kennewick
87	Andrei Lintz	TE	6-5	247	Jr.	Bellingham
9	Marshall Lobbestael	QB	6-3	210	Sr.	Oak Harbor
47	Casey Locker	S	5-11	186	So.	Ferndale
89	Travis Long	DE	6-4	258	Jr.	Spokane
66	Justin Mann	DT	6-3	246	Jr.	Woodinville
54	Darren Markle	LB	6-1	224	So.	Meridian, ID
19	Anthony Martinez	CB	5-9	177	Sr.	Riverside, CA
28	Jay Matthews	S	6-1	199	Jr.	Lake Oswego, OR
39	Kyle McCartney	S	6-0	194	Jr.	Edmonds
63	Taylor Meighen	OL	6-3	280	Jr.	Beaumont, TX
34	Logwone Mitz	RB	6-1	230	Sr.	Redmond
12	C.J. Mizell	LB	6-2	225	So.	Tallahassee, FL
52	Darryl Monroe	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Orlando, FL
83	Isiah Myers	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	Orlando, FL
38	Eric Oertel	LB	6-1	190	So.	Racine, WI
75	Tyson Pencer	OL	6-8	330	Jr.	Delta, BC
48	Mitchell Peterson	S	6-0	197	Fr.	Spokane
31	Trase Pickering	S	5-10	186	So.	Redmond
98	Kalafitoni Pole	DT	6-1	291	Fr.	Union City, CA
85	Jordan Pu'u Robinson	DE	6-4	258	So.	Wailuku, HI
5	Brandon Rankin	DE	6-5	281	Sr.	Shallotte, NC
82	Bobby Ratliff	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Etiwanda, CA
74	Alex Reitnouer	OL	6-5	270	So.	Pasadena, CA
70	Jake Rodgers	OL	6-6	251	Fr.	Spokane
73	Andrew Roxas	OL	6-2	303	Sr.	Sun Valley, CA
41	Zach Sampson	K	6-2	188	Jr.	North Kitsap
51	Jacob Sealby	LB	6-1	187	Fr.	Wenatchee
53	Lucas Sealby	LB	6-1	190	Fr.	Wenatchee
24	Daniel Simmons	CB	5-10	187	Jr.	Ontario, CA
36	Matthew Simmons	S	5-11	187	Fr.	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
1	Gino Simone	WR	6-1	187	Jr.	Sammamish
71	Dan Spitz	OL	6-6	279	Jr.	Spokane
40	Skylar Stormo	TE	6-5	250	Jr.	Everett
15	Tyree Toomer	S	5-11	194	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
10	Jeff Tuel	QB	6-3	214	Jr.	Fresno, CA
65	Sebastian Valenzuela	OL	6-2	321	So.	Burbank, CA
6	Daniel Wagner	P	6-0	211	Sr.	Portland, OR
69	Jeff Waldner	DE	6-2	242	Fr.	Olympia
29	Nolan Washington	CB	5-11	180	So.	Burien
80	Kristoff Williams	WR	6-2	201	Fr.	Antioch, CA
86	Marquess Wilson	WR	6-3	173	So.	Tulare, CA
3	Carl Winston	RB	5-8	197	Jr.	Harbor City, CA

NOTEBOOK

For years, there has been grousing from the grandstands that **Paul Wulff's** staff was too heavy on under-experienced assistants who followed him from Eastern Washington. True or not, Wulff gave those critics some ammunition in the offseason.

To replace a couple of his EWU holdovers, Wulff hired Pac-10 warhorse **Chris Tormey** from Hawaii to coach linebackers, and brought in **Todd Howard**, recently at UCLA, to take over the defensive line. He also made **Chris Ball** the sole defensive coordinator, with **Jody Sears** now concentrating on cornerbacks.

"We needed to bring in some veteran coaches to help with our development," Wulff said.

Including the hiring of Steve Morton and Dave Ungerer last year, Wulff has replaced four assistants with 17 years of full-time experience at the FBS level with coaches who have 79 years in the FCS or NFL.

• It was bad enough that Cougar tight ends caught just one pass in 2010, but it got to the point where formations calling for a tight end were mostly abandoned.

That wasn't the case in the spring, particularly in the final scrimmage when **Andrei Lintz** made a spectacular diving catch of a **Jeff Tuel** pass. The performances of Lintz and **Aaron Dunn** suggested the tight end will once again be part of the offensive package.

"We feel like we have two guys who can block and catch it and run," Wulff said, "and just as important, give us that accountability that we can have them out there. They have to perform to be out there, and we think they will."

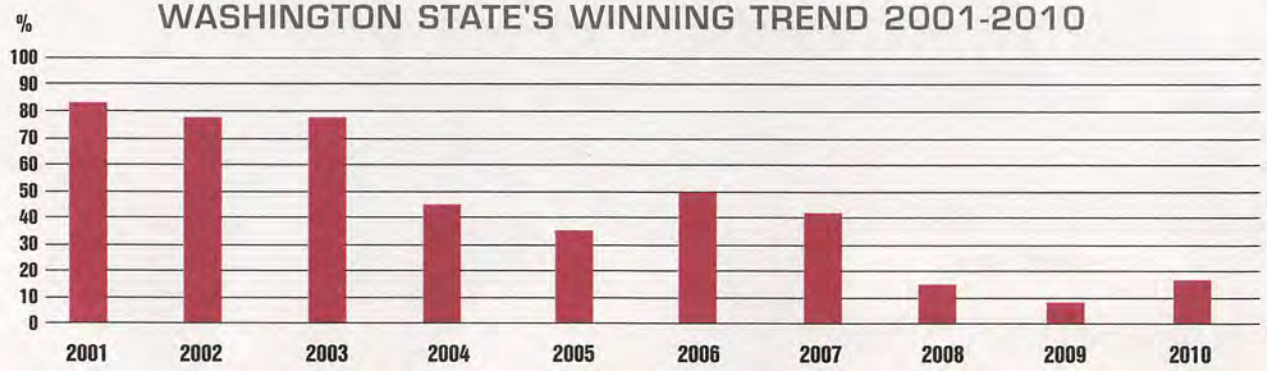
• One revelation from the 2010 season: middle linebacker **C.J. Mizell** has to be on the field.

Mizell — once the No. 5 recruit nationally and originally a Florida State commit — was a difference-maker .... but, alas, he was also an indifferent practice player. Only when he began to see the light was he rewarded with playing time.

But during the spring, the staff once again deemed his effort sub-standard, and he spent most practices on the second team behind **Mike Ledgerwood**.

"He has to become a hell of a lot more consistent and change his work ethic," said Wulff.

WASHINGTON STATE'S WINNING TREND 2001-2010



The return of explosive freshman Rickey Galvin — he broke a wrist on his first carry last season — is a boost, and incoming freshman Marcus Mason should also push starter-for-now Logwone Mitz, a 230-pounder who needs to attack holes with aggression.

"Ricky gives us that explosiveness and pop," Wulff said, "to get through the line and one-on-one with a safety or a corner — that dynamic ability everyone needs."

DEFENSE

Just how desperate the Cougars are for improvement on defense was reflected in the offseason personnel movement — not on the roster, but the coaching staff, where veterans Todd Howard and Chris Tormey take over the line and linebackers.

Having been unable to find dominant talent at defensive tackle — difficult for any program, but especially for the Wazzus of the world — Wulff will settle for finding a rotation of eight players up front to improve a unit that was 115th nationally against the run and last in the Pac-10 in sacks.

But there are lots of qualifiers. End Travis Long needs to jump to an elite level. Freshman tackle Toni Pole needs to stay healthy. Freshman Xavier Cooper, and junior college transfers Ian Knight, Lenard Williams and Niko Auma, have to be ready now. And disappointing Brandon Rankin, last year's touted savior, must find his niche.

"I still think we can line up a front that will match up with a Stanford and defend the physical aspect," Wulff said. "And we have some speed on passing downs to get to the quarterback for the first time."

Tormey has to sort out some drama at linebacker, where the Cougars can't seem to get top practice effort from their most gifted talent, sophomore C.J. Mizell. WSU lost 2008 find Louis Bland — first to a knee that wouldn't come around, and also to behavior issues.

Senior Alex Hoffman-Ellis "played at an All-Pac-12 level" in the spring, according to Wulff. He's also high on Sekope Kaufusi — typical of this staff's recruits in that he's a physical upgrade, but has yet to establish himself as a force on the field.

The talent is best stockpiled in the secondary. The best of a bright young group is safety Deone Bucannon, who should eventually be an all-league player. And even with a drug-testing violation wiping out Aire Justin's senior year, the cornerback position is deep — especially if Daniel Simmons returns from a shoulder injury to join Nolan Washington and Damante Horton.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cougars didn't have a graduation loss bigger than Reid Forrest. The

Marquess Wilson
Photo by Jayne Oncea-US PRESSWIRE

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2010 stats: 91.0 ypg rushing (10th in Pac-10/117th NCAA), 239.2 passing (6th/42nd), 330.2 total offense (8th/92nd), 19.6 ppg (10th/106th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Jeff Tuel*	Jr.	As good a leader as WSU has had at the position.	Marshall Lobbestael, Sr.
RB	Logwone Mitz*	Sr.	As the big back, he needs to be more of north-south guy.	Rickey Galvin, Fr.
WR	Isiah Barton	Sr.	Should see the ball more; also a solid kick returner.	Gino Simone, Jr.
WR	Marquess Wilson*	So.	After 1,000-yard freshman year, will get more attention.	Bobby Ratliff, Fr.
WR	Jared Karstetter*	Sr.	62 catches led team, as did his competitive spirit.	Kristoff Williams, Fr.
TE	Andrei Lintz	Jr.	Time to wake up the forgotten position.	Aaron Dunn, Fr.
LT	David Gonzales*	Sr.	Was best lineman, until fracturing right arm midseason.	Jake Rodgers, Fr.
LG	John Fullington*	So.	Wulff: "Haven't been around one as good as him."	Tyson Pencer, Jr.
C	Andrew Roxas	Sr.	Hasn't yet fulfilled promise he showed as a freshman.	Taylor Meighen, Jr.
RG	B.J. Guerra*	Sr.	With 24 career starts, he's the anchor.	Elliott Bosch, So.
RT	Wade Jacobson*	Sr.	Needs to be as consistent as he is ornery.	Rico Forbes, Jr.
K	Andrew Furney	So.	This year, field goals could actually matter again.	Alex Gauper, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2010 stats: 220.3 ypg rushing (10th in Pac-10/115th NCAA), 246.8 passing (9th/104th), 467.0 total defense (10th/118th), 35.8 ppg (10th/110th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Travis Long*	Jr.	Two years, 24 starts, hint at his considerable value.	Skylar Stormo, Jr.
DT	Toni Pole	Fr.	Cougs need this big grunt to stay healthy up front.	Justin Clayton, So.
DT	Anthony Laurenzi	Jr.	Needs to find a way to get into the backfield more.	Brandon Rankin, Sr.*
DE	Ian Knight	Jr.	Should provide some speed on the outside.	Jordan Pu'u Robinson, So.
LB	Sekope Kaufusi	So.	Cougs need a breakout year from this touted talent.	Darryl Monroe, Fr.
LB	Mike Ledgerwood	Sr.	Can the coaches light a fire under the gifted backup?	C.J. Mizell, So.
LB	Alex Hoffman-Ellis*	Sr.	Evolving into consistent playmaker and leader.	Darren Markle, So.
CB	Nolan Washington*	So.	Has the hops to battle taller receivers.	Brandon Golden, Fr.
CB	Damante Horton	So.	Will be hard-pressed to unseat a healthy Simmons.	Daniel Simmons, Jr.*
SS	Deone Bucannon*	So.	WSU's next great defensive back; a ferocious hitter.	Anthony Carpenter, So.
FS	Tyree Toomer*	Jr.	No. 3 tackler a year ago, but no interceptions.	Casey Locker, So.
P	Dan Wagner	Sr.	Untested ex-backup QB has big shoes to fill.	Tana Pritchard, Fr.

*Returning Starter

COUGARS RECRUITING 2011

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Niko Aumua	DE	6-6	225	✪✪	San Pablo, CA	Contra Costa C.C.
Recorded 63 tackles, 25 tackles for loss, 12 sacks and three interceptions in 2010.						
Demetrius Cherry	DE	6-6	270	✪✪	Oak Ridge, NC	Oak Ridge Military Academy
Recorded 92 total tackles, four sacks and four forced fumbles as a senior…Earned honorable mention all-state honors.						
Cody Clements	QB	6-0	194	✪✪	La Habra, CA	La Habra
Threw for 2,150 yards on 120-of-191 passing, with 29 touchdowns, while also rushing for five touchdowns as a senior.						
David Davis	DT	6-1	270	✪✪	Palos Verdes Estates, CA	Palos Verdes
Recorded 55 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, two sacks and an interception as a senior… Three-year starter.						
Rahmel Dockery	ATH	5-10	165	✪✪✪	University Place, WA	Curtis
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com,,, Had 73 catches for 1,443 yards and 17 touchdowns, and rushed for 713 yards as a senior.						
Henry Eaddy	WR	5-8	170	✪✪	Orlando, FL	Olympia
Played wide receiver and running back in high school…Also played basketball.						
Rico Forbes	OL	6-5	290	✪✪✪	Corsicana, TX	Navarro J.C.
Helped lead team to an 11-1 record and the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship in 2010.						
Max Gama	ATH	5-11	181	✪✪✪	La Mirada, CA	La Mirada
Had 66 tackles and fives sacks as a senior…Recorded 81 tackles with a sack and four pass breakups as a junior.						
Max Hersey	TE	6-3	235	✪✪✪	University Place, WA	Curtis
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Helped lead team to 12-1 record in 2010.						
Ian Knight	DE	6-2	244	✪✪✪	El Dorado, KS	Butler County C.C.
Recorded 56 tackles, 14.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks in 2010…Earned honorable mention all-conference honors.						
Brock Lutes	RB	6-3	218	✪✪	Newberg, OR	Newberg
Rushed for 360 yards, had 24 catches for 260 yards, and scored eight total touchdowns in seven games as a senior.						
Marcus Mason	RB	5-10	180	✪✪	Etiwanda, CA	Etiwanda
Rushed for 1,623 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior…Participated in the NUC All-World Gridiron Classic.						
Logan Mayes	LB	6-3	218	✪✪✪	Eugene, OR	Marist
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…First-team all-state selection.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Taylor Meighen	OL	6-3	285	✪✪	Kilgore, TX	Kilgore J.C.
Earned first-team all-conference honors in 2010…Chose Washington State over FIU and Rice.						
Alex Mitchell	OL	6-2	309	✪✪✪✪	Portland, OR	Jefferson
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 16 offensive guard.						
Darryl Monroe	LB	6-1	215	✪✪✪	Orlando, FL	Dr. Phillips
Rated as the nation's No. 73 outside linebacker by Rivals.com… Recorded 136 tackles, three sacks and one interception as a senior.						
Isiah Myers	WR	6-0	170	✪✪	Orlando, FL	Olympia
Had 42 receptions for 637 yards and three touchdowns as a junior.						
Darryl Paulo	LB	6-2	230	✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Grant
Rated as the No. 100 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Recorded 150 tackles and five sacks as a senior.						
T.J. Poloai	DT	6-2	265	✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Luther Burbank Senior
Recorded 73 tackles and eight sacks as a senior…First-team all-league selection.						
Tana Pritchard	QB	6-3	205	✪✪	Lakewood, WA	Clover Park
Played linebacker, quarterback and punter in high school…Chose Washington State over UNLV.						
Mansel Simmons	TE	6-4	217	✪✪✪	Sacramento, CA	Sheldon
Rated as the No. 97 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 33 tight end.						
Chester Su'a	RB	6-2	205	✪✪✪	Honolulu, HI	Kaimuki
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com… Rushed for 1,625 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior.						
Wendell Taiese	OL	6-6	340	✪✪	Oakland, CA	McClymonds
Helped lead team to 12-0 record in 2010…Participated in Holiday Classic All-Star football game.						
Spencer Waseem	DB	5-10	170	✪✪	Apopka, FL	Apopka
Recorded 41 tackles, one interception and three pass breakups as a junior.						
Dominique Williams	WR	6-4	190	✪✪	Pomona, CA	Garey
Earned first-team all-league honors as a senior…Had 45 catches for 1,213 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior.						
Lenard Williams	DE	6-2	245	✪✪	Council Bluffs, IA	Iowa Western C.C.
Had 42 tackles, eight tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks in 2010…Recorded 26 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks in 2009.						

A LOOK AT THE COUGARS

RESULTS

2-10, 1-8

L	at Oklahoma State	17-65
W	MONTANA STATE	23-22
L	at SMU	21-35
L	USC	16-50
L	at UCLA	28-42
L	OREGON	23-43
L	ARIZONA	7-24
L	at Stanford	28-38
L	at Arizona State	0-42
L	CALIFORNIA	13-20
W	at Oregon State	31-14
L	WASHINGTON	28-35

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
J. Tuel	12	219	366	12	59.8	2780	18
M. Lobbestael	6	7	15	0	46.7	61	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Montgomery	11	122	478	3.9	5	70	43.5
L. Mitz	12	74	263	3.6	4	24	21.9
J. Tuel	12	134	204	1.5	1	24	17.0

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Karstetter	12	62	658	10.6	7	37	54.8
M. Wilson	12	55	1006	18.3	6	83	83.8
D. Blackledge	11	30	456	15.2	3	33	41.5

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: D. Bucannon 84, A. Hoffman-Ellis 81, T. Toomer 68
Tackles for loss: T. Long 10.5, M. Beck 6.5, K. Kooyman 6.5
Sacks: T. Long 4, B. Rankin 3, six tied with 2
Interceptions: D. Bucannon 2, A. Hoffman-Ellis 2, A. Justin 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'10 Record
Sept. 3	IDAHO STATE	1-10
Sept. 10	UNLV	2-11
Sept. 17	at San Diego State	9-4
Oct. 1	at Colorado	5-7
Oct. 8	at UCLA	4-8
Oct. 15	STANFORD	12-1
Oct. 22	vs. Oregon State (Qwest Field)	5-7
Oct. 29	at Oregon	12-1
Nov. 5	at California	5-7
Nov. 12	ARIZONA STATE	6-6
Nov. 19	UTAH	10-3
Nov. 26	vs. Washington (Qwest Field)	7-6

PLAYER PROFILE

Jared Karstetter
Photo by Jared Karstetter

Karstetter Ready For Some Good Days

There is a notion that the lopsided losses and a mountain of adversity will help spur Washington State back to a competitive level. Maybe that theory is a little overrated.

"I can tell you that no one mentions those days," said senior wide receiver Jared Karstetter.

"I don't think there's any real positive thing to come from reliving those times. Everyone understands the feeling and emotion of what we've been through, but there's nothing to be gained from it. We weren't good enough then. The point is to make yourself good enough to compete and win."

If he can help the Cougars get there, no one will derive more satisfaction than Karstetter. Raised up the highway in Spokane, his obvious attachment was to WSU, especially during his impressionable junior-high years when the Cougars were reeling off three consecutive 10-win seasons.

He was giddy to commit to the Cougars in 2007, without an inkling of where the program was heading.

"I had no idea to be honest," he said. "As a freshman, I just came in looking up to all those guys and it was a complete shock — to the coaches included — what we were dealing with."

It didn't take long to find out.

Two weeks into the 2008 season, the Cougars were drubbed by Cal 66-3 — one of nine games they lost by at least four touchdowns. The silver lining for Karstetter was that the dire straits got the 6-4 freshman into the starting lineup for the season opener.

He earned steady playing time all season — his big moment coming when he hauled in a late 48-yard pass from Kevin Lopina that allowed the Cougars to beat rival Washington in overtime.

In the two seasons since, he's been an honorable mention All-Pac-10 performer, his reception totals increasing from six to 38 to a team-high 62.

Just as he was mentored by future NFL player Brandon Gibson as a freshman, he's the example for perhaps the most talented young group of receivers in WSU history.

"I just try to keep everyone somewhat, well, focused," he said.

"I enjoy those guys — Henry Eaddy and Isiah Myers, the new Florida guys, and all of them. They come out to practice and still have that young smile and mess-around attitude — they probably do more for me than I do for them."

Best of all, they don't mention the bad old days.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Jeff Tuel

No Cougar accepts more responsibility in trying to turn the program around — or is more insistent that it will. ... Already in the top half of the league's quarterbacks — even on an awful team — Tuel reads defenses better and should cut down on his interception total. ... He also gained more than 450 yards on scrambles last year — and has put on 20 pounds to take on the hits. ... Had a season-high 311 passing yards vs. UCLA last year.

EMERGING STAR

SS Deone Bucannon

Few Cougar true freshmen have made the defensive impact Bucannon did, leading the team in tackles (84) in just eight starts and picking off a pair of passes. ... While his coverage technique still needs refining, he delivers some brutal hits. ... Had seven tackles, an interception and a forced fumble vs. Washington. ... Was a Rivals.com three-star recruit out of Vanden High in Fairfield, Calif.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Darryl Monroe

One of the first three mid-winter high school enrollees in WSU history, the Florida recruit got a lot of work on the strongside in the spring. ... "He'll have to play this year," coach Paul Wulff said. "He'll be a factor for us." ... He made 136 tackles, including eight for loss and three sacks, as a senior at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando. He helped his team to a 14-1 record last season.

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only statistical category in which WSU cracked even the upper third nationally was net punting — and with a defense in need of any field position edge, that puts a lot of pressure on his replacement, Dan Wagner.

Almost as lamentable was the graduation of long snapper Zach Enyeart, though he did mentor a replacement in South Dakota State transfer Zach Koepp.

Kicker Andrew Furney worked his way into the starting job by year's end and made three of five field goal attempts. But he needs more consistency and hasn't shown to be all that capable on kickoffs, so freshman Alex Gauper will remain in the mix.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Ah, the good news. The Cougars need to get off to a fast start if their bowl aspirations hope to be reconciled, and the schedule is built to do just that. A third-week date at San Diego State clearly isn't a gimme, but at least the Cougars should have a head of steam from home set-ups against Idaho State and UNLV.

The conference season starts on the road, but with two winnable games — Pac-12 newbie Colorado and UCLA, teams expected to bring up the rear in the South division. But WSU is also taking risks — playing a home game at Qwest Field in Seattle against Oregon State.

That will be the first of two games there, as Washington is taking the Apple Cup to Qwest to get a jump-start on renovations to Husky Stadium.

— John Blanchette

PICKING THE MOUNTAIN WEST

Boise State has Moore than TCU in race for Mountain West crown

There will be two distinct races in the Mountain West's transitional 2011 season.

Newcomer Boise State leads the top-half contingent for what — if recent precedent holds — is a winner-take-all BCS berth. The Broncos, led by Heisman finalist quarterback Kellen Moore and a sampling of NFL prospects on both sides of the ball, become instant contenders.

"Boise State has as talented a football program as there has been in the country, and they are going to add a lot to the Mountain West," said Colorado State coach Steve Fairchild.

Rounding out the upper echelon are TCU (coming off back-to-back BCS bowl appearances and a No. 2 national ranking), San Diego State (the awakening snoozing giant) and always-competitive Air Force.

The difference is Boise State has Moore. TCU starts fresh at quarterback with sophomore Casey Pachall replacing MWC Offensive Player of the Year Andy Dalton, a second-round draft pick.

A fifth MWC bowl berth is available if the leader of the bottom half of the league can just eke out a .500 record — well, 7-5 for Wyoming, which plays two FCS opponents.

Here are the arguments for each team, alphabetically:

Colorado State (experienced quarterback Pete Thomas); New Mexico (seasoned defense); UNLV (big-armed quarterback candidate Caleb Herring); Wyoming (some defensive stars, running back Alvester Alexander).

But there are just as many reasons that any of the four can finish last.

While Boise State wants to make a good first impression, TCU is determined to leave the MWC a winner before joining the Big East in 2012. TCU's Gary Patterson, as he does every year, insists his players dismiss the prior season's accomplishments, including the Rose Bowl win over Wisconsin.

"Our goal is to win the MWC title every year," Patterson said. "That will be Casey's charge."

A built-in rivalry is in store for the co-favorites.

TCU was 10-2 and Boise State was 12-0 when they met in the 2008 Poinsettia Bowl, a gem of a game won 17-16 by the Frogs. The rematch in the 2009 season Fiesta Bowl went to Boise State, which finished the season 14-0.

Few would discount the chances of Air Force or San Diego State.

AFA's option is led by senior quarterback Tim Jefferson, and the offense traditionally forces defenses to retool for one week.

The Aztecs have senior quarterback Ryan Lindley and new coach Rocky Long, a defensive whiz who was elevated from defensive coordinator when Brady Hoke parlayed SDSU's turnaround season into the job at Michigan.

— Natalie Meisler

Mountain West Conference Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Boise State	QB Kellen Moore and RB Doug Martin represent 47 returning touchdowns.	All new venues, a new-kid-on-the-block target will make Broncos work harder nearly every week.	Look for Boise State to settle in nicely to its new league and get right in the hunt for a BCS bowl.
2. TCU	RB Ed Wesley, LBs Tank Carder and Tanner Brock are coming off Rose Bowl victory.	Four year-starting quarterback Andy Dalton leaves a void in the backfield.	Frogs can rely on defense to gain early momentum before heading to Boise for a likely title showdown.
3. Air Force	QB Tim Jefferson, RB Asher Clark return as seniors; Falcons have a veteran defense.	Back-to-back games at rival Navy (Oct. 1) and Notre Dame (Oct. 8) could take emotional toll.	The winning continues as coach Troy Calhoun will get Air Force into its fifth consecutive bowl.
4. San Diego State	Impressive combo: QB Ryan Lindley, RB Ronnie Hillman, Year 3 of Rocky Long's defense.	Can anyone besides the tight ends catch Lindley's passes? New WRs didn't impress in the spring.	Aztecs have clawed from the back of the pack with talent that separates them from league's bottom four.
5. UNLV	Rebels haven't seen an arm like Caleb Herring's in some time, and he has good targets.	The Rebels' defense isn't done with its growing pains.	With bulk of the MWC schedule following Halloween, there's plenty of time to make good adjustments.
6. Wyoming	The stars come out on defense; Cowboys ended 2010 by shutting out rival Colorado State.	Austyn Carta-Samuels, the 2009 MWC Freshman of the Year, shocked everyone with a transfer.	Wyoming was over its head in 2010 with a brutal schedule. Easing up will help the final mark.
7. Colorado State	Rams return a starting QB (Pete Thomas) for the first time in Steve Fairchild's tenure.	Unproven running game, inconsistent receiving corps and revamped D-line present obstacles.	With Utah State, San Jose State and Northern Colorado, Rams are halfway to a .500 record and a minor bowl.
8. New Mexico	Sophomore QBs Stump Godfrey and Tarean Austin have some experience; LB Carmen Messina returns.	With two wins in two years, this program has forgotten how to compete.	Clock is ticking on coach Mike Locksley's troubled tenure. Exceeding two wins will be cause for celebration.

Lindy's 2011 ALL-MWC Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Kellen Moore	Sr.	Boise State
RB	Ronnie Hillman	So.	San Diego State
RB	Doug Martin	Sr.	Boise State
WR	Phillip Payne	Sr.	UNLV
WR	Josh Boyce	So.	TCU
TE	Gavin Escobar	So.	San Diego State
C	Weston Richburg	So.	Colorado State
OL	A.J. Wallerstein	Sr.	Air Force
OL	Nate Potter	Sr.	Boise State
OL	Kyle Dooley	Sr.	TCU
OL	Tommie Draheim	Sr.	San Diego State
AP	Jonathan Warzeka	Sr.	Air Force
K	Abelardo Perez	Sr.	San Diego State

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Shea McClellin	Sr.	Boise State
DL	Billy Winn	Sr.	Boise State
DL	Jerome Long	Sr.	San Diego State
DL	Josh Biezuns	Sr.	Wyoming
LB	Tank Carder	Sr.	TCU
LB	Miles Burris	Sr.	San Diego State
LB	Mychal Sisson	Sr.	Colorado State
DB	Leon McFadden	Jr.	San Diego State
DB	Anthony Wright	Sr.	Air Force
DB	Will Chandler	Sr.	UNLV
DB	George Iloka	Sr.	Boise State
P	Brian Stahovich	Sr.	San Diego State

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Ryan Lindley	Sr.	San Diego State
RB	Asher Clark	Sr.	Air Force
RB	Ed Wesley	Jr.	TCU
WR	Tyler Shoemaker	Sr.	Boise State
WR	Lou Greenwood	Jr.	Colorado State
TE	Lucas Reed	Jr.	New Mexico
C	Nick Carlson	Jr.	Wyoming
OL	Paul Madsen	Sr.	Colorado State
OL	Nik Embernate	Jr.	San Diego State
OL	Yusef Rodgers	Jr.	UNLV
OL	Thomas Byrd	Sr.	Boise State
AP	Marcus Sullivan	So.	UNLV
K	Ben DeLine	Sr.	Colorado State

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Stansly Maponga	So.	TCU
DL	Braylon Broughton	Sr.	TCU
DL	Ryan Gardner	Sr.	Air Force
DL	Gabe Knapton	Sr.	Wyoming
LB	Tanner Brock	Jr.	TCU
LB	Carmen Messina	Sr.	New Mexico
LB	Brian Hendricks	Sr.	Wyoming
DB	Tashaun Gipson	Sr.	Wyoming
DB	Tekerrein Cuba	Sr.	TCU
DB	Quinton Pointer	Sr.	UNLV
DB	Jon Davis	Sr.	Air Force
P	Pete Kontodiakos	Jr.	Colorado State

THE BIG ONES

Sept. 3	Boise State vs. Georgia (Georgia Dome)
Sept. 3	TCU at Baylor
Sept. 10	TCU at Air Force
Sept. 17	Colorado State vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 24	Tulsa at Boise State
Sept. 24	San Diego State at Michigan
Oct. 1	Air Force at Navy
Oct. 1	Nevada at Boise State
Oct. 7	Boise State at Fresno State
Oct. 8	Air Force at Notre Dame
Oct. 8	TCU at San Diego State
Oct. 13	San Diego State at Air Force
Oct. 28	BYU vs. TCU (Arlington)
Nov. 12	TCU at Boise State
Nov. 19	Boise State at San Diego State

BOWL CONNECTIONS

MWC Champion
Maaco Las Vegas vs. PAC-12

MWC #2
Poinsettia Bowl
vs. WAC

MWC #3
Independence Bowl vs. ACC

MWC #4/5
Armed Forces Bowl vs. C-USA

MWC #4/5
New Mexico Bowl vs. WAC

* Order of bowl choice, not necessarily finish in standings.

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Nate Potter	OT	Sr.	Boise State	Heir to Ryan Clady's legacy.
2. Ryan Lindley	QB	Sr.	San Diego State	Has the size and style the NFL will like.
3. Tank Carder	LB	Sr.	TCU	Next in TCU defensive assembly line.
4. George Iloka	S	Sr.	Boise State	Big hitter at 6-3, 216.
5. Doug Martin	RB	Sr.	Boise State	Durable; a good receiving back.
6. Carmen Messina	LB	Sr.	New Mexico	NFL will find a great player on lackluster team.
7. Miles Burris	LB	Sr.	San Diego State	Critical player in SDSU turnaround.
8. Tanner Brock	LB	Jr.	TCU	Does he stay after this season?
9. Shea McClellin	DE	Sr.	Boise State	Sack count will gain notice.
10. Kellen Moore	QB	Sr.	Boise State	Critics: He's 6-foot, is "product of the system."

Most Valuable Player	Offensive Player of the Year	Defensive Player of the Year	Newcomer of the Year
Kellen Moore QB, Boise State	Ryan Lindley QB, San Diego State	Tank Carder LB, TCU	LaDarius Brown WR, TCU

HONOR ROLL

Most Accurate Passer	Kellen Moore	Boise State
Strongest Arm	Ryan Lindley	San Diego State
Best Scrambler	Tim Jefferson	Air Force
Coolest in the Clutch	Kellen Moore	Boise State
Toughest to Bring Down	Doug Martin	Boise State
Best Hands	Phillip Payne	UNLV
Most Dangerous Deep Threat	Josh Boyce	TCU
Best Pass Blocker	Nate Potter	Boise State
Best Run Blocker	A.J. Wallerstein	Air Force
Best Pass Rusher	Shea McClellin	Boise State
Best Cover Corner	Leon McFadden	San Diego State
Special Teams Demon	Tanner Brock	TCU

AIR FORCE | FALCONS

MWC rank: 3 | Record: 9-4 | MWC record: 5-3 (T-3rd) | Stadium: Falcon Stadium (46,692)

By Frank Schwab

Photo by Frank DiBrango

Tim Jefferson

"With high expectations, you're going to raise your level of play. That can only work out well for us."
— QB Tim Jefferson

FALCONS at a GLANCE

COACH: Troy Calhoun — At Air Force and overall: 34-18, 4 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Clay Hendrix, Blane Morgan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Matt Wallerstedt

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1985
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2006
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 5 offense, 8 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Tim Jefferson, RB Asher Clark, WR Jonathan Warzeka, WR Zack Kauth, OG A.J. Wallerstein, DT Ryan Gardner, CB Anthony Wright, S Jon Davis

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offense should be tough to stop. Jefferson has the senior savvy — and the physical skills — to lead the triple-option attack. There's no reason to think the running game won't finish in the top five nationally again. A solid defense returns eight starters.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Air Force's option offense needs the fullback to be productive, and there's simply no experience at that position. The running game also needs tailback Asher Clark to stay healthy. Defensively, Air Force has no all-conference-caliber performer in the front seven, which could be exploited.

OFFENSE

Air Force finished second in the nation in rushing last season. The Falcons should be just as good in that area this season ... but with a solid passing game, too.

Senior Tim Jefferson is one of the better dual-threat quarterbacks Air Force has had, and as a fourth-year starter, he knows all the intricacies of the offense. Last year, he threw for 1,459 yards and 10 touchdowns — not bad considering the Falcons passed the ball only about 13 times per game.

He has a good group of receivers to throw to, highlighted by Zack Kauth and Jonathan Warzeka.

Senior tailback Asher Clark could become the Falcons' all-time leading rusher with a big year, but he needs to stay healthy. There isn't much depth at tailback, and there's no experience returning at the crucial fullback position.

Former tailback Wesley Cobb emerged as the frontrunner at fullback in spring practice, and Mike DeWitt showed he is over a knee injury that cost him most of last season. A newcomer could earn playing time with a good training camp.

Many experienced players return to an offensive line that played well last year.

DEFENSE

The secondary is the strength of the defense. Safety Jon Davis and cornerback Anthony Wright should be able to pick off plenty of passes, even though the Falcons have to replace standout cornerback Reggie Rembert.

Air Force does need a corner to emerge opposite Wright, so that opponents can't simply ignore his side of the field. Sophomore Chris Miller has a good chance to replace Rembert, and could be Air Force's next star in the defensive backfield, but Josh Hall and P.J. Adeji-Paul are in the mix.

The front seven returns plenty of experience, although there's no star in the group. Nose guard Ryan Gardner might be the best player up front. He's a disruptive force in the middle. There's depth and experience at inside linebacker, with two of the top three tacklers from last year coming back.

The defense could use a pass-rushing force on the outside.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Erik Soderberg made only half of his 10 field goal attempts and was benched at the end of a baffling season. He's a senior now, and the Falcons hope he bounces back strong. Air Force should be able to make some big plays in the return game; Warzeka is a fantastic kick returner, and either Davis or Wright will be dangerous returning punts.

OVERVIEW

Air Force is coming off an Independence Bowl win over Georgia Tech and has a lot of key pieces in place in 2011. This would seemingly be the time for the Falcons, with four straight bowl appearances under coach Troy Calhoun, to take the next step into the conference's elite.

Air Force's Week 2 game at home against TCU will be a great test to see if the Falcons are capable of making a run at a conference championship.

TOP NEWCOMER

FB Tyrone Sauls: Air Force rarely gets significant contributions from freshmen because of grueling basic training over the summer, but Sauls is physically capable at 6-1, 220 pounds and the opportunity is there because the Falcons are inexperienced at fullback.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**7**	**Tim Jefferson***	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**
RB	**17**	**Asher Clark***	**5-8**	**185**	**Sr.**
FB	35	Wesley Cobb	5-9	190	Jr.
WR	85	Zack Kauth	6-5	195	Sr.
WR	15	Jonathan Warzeka	5-9	175	Sr.
TE	81	Josh Freeman	6-3	200	Sr.
LT	**75**	**Jason Kons***	**6-4**	**255**	**Jr.**
LG	67	Jordan Eason	6-3	255	Jr.
C	**54**	**Michael Hester***	**6-3**	**250**	**Sr.**
RG	**73**	**A.J. Wallerstein***	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**
RT	70	Kevin Whitt	6-3	255	Sr.
DEFENSE					
DE	**51**	**Zach Payne***	**6-3**	**255**	**Sr.**
DT	**86**	**Ryan Gardner***	**6-3**	**260**	**Sr.**
DE	95	Harry Kehs	6-4	260	Sr.
LB	50	Alex Means	6-5	220	Jr.
LB	**41**	**Brady Amack***	**6-0**	**225**	**Sr.**
LB	**32**	**Jordan Waiwaiole***	**6-3**	**230**	**Sr.**
LB	**44**	**Patrick Hennessey***	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**
CB	**5**	**Anthony Wright***	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**
CB	3	Chris Miller	5-8	185	So.
SS	**34**	**Anthony Wooding***	**6-2**	**175**	**So.**
FS	**6**	**Jon Davis***	**6-1**	**198**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**99**	**Erik Soderberg***	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**
P	97	Kell Bartholomew	5-8	165	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 10	TCU
Sept. 24	TENNESSEE STATE
Oct. 1	at Navy
Oct. 8	at Notre Dame
Oct. 15	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 22	at Boise State
Oct. 29	at New Mexico
Nov. 5	ARMY
Nov. 12	WYOMING
Nov. 19	UNLV
Nov. 26	at Colorado State

2010 RESULTS

W	NORTHWESTERN STATE	65-21
W	BYU	35-14
L	at Oklahoma	24-27
W	at Wyoming	20-14
W	NAVY	14-6
W	COLORADO STATE	49-27
L	at San Diego State	25-27
L	at TCU	7-38
L	UTAH	23-28
W	at Army	42-22
W	NEW MEXICO	48-23
W	at UNLV	35-20
	Independence Bowl	
W	vs. Georgia Tech	14-7

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.9	40
Rushing	306.5	2
Passing	119.3	118
Total	425.9	28
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	21.1	28
Rushing	201.5	103
Passing	147.8	2
Total	349.3	37
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
+5	+0.38	31

BOISE STATE | BRONCOS

MWC rank: 1 | Record: 12-1 | WAC record: 7-1 (T-1st) | Stadium: Bronco Stadium (32,000)

By Chadd Cripe

Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman

"We need a lot of guys to step up. We lost so much talent."
— Coach Chris Petersen

BRONCOS at a GLANCE

COACH: Chris Petersen — At Boise State and overall: 61-5, 5 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brent Pease
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pete Kwiatkowski

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010, co-champs
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2001
RETURNING STARTERS: 13; 6 offense, 7 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Kellen Moore, TB Doug Martin, LT Nate Potter, C Thomas Byrd, DE Shea McClellin, DT Billy Winn, DE Tyrone Crawford, S George Iloka

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Broncos played dominant defense last year — and that starts with the line, which helped them lead the nation in sacks. Three starters and all of the primary backups return on the line. Offensively, the passing game should be productive with Heisman Trophy finalist Moore at quarterback. Martin should further open eyes nationally.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The Broncos lost the two most productive receivers in school history and the safety who led the team in tackles the past three years. Those are huge holes to fill. Plus, they have depth concerns at linebacker, tailback and cornerback if injuries strike.

OFFENSE

Seniors Kellen Moore and Doug Martin give the Broncos an enviable quarterback-tailback tandem.

Moore was a Heisman Trophy finalist last year and enters his fourth year as a starter. He has been the most difficult quarterback in the country to intercept or sack over the past two years while throwing a total of 74 touchdown passes.

Martin, a 5-9, 215-pounder with an imposing blend of power and speed, should gain more national attention this season after generating 1,598 yards from scrimmage last year.

Three starters on the offensive line — including All-WAC picks Nate Potter (left tackle) and Thomas Byrd (center) — plus a deep rotation of tight ends and senior fullback Dan Paul return to protect the two stars.

The receiving corps, though, is a question mark. The Broncos lost the top two receivers in school history and need breakout seasons from sophomores Geraldo Hiwat and Kirby Moore.

DEFENSE

The Broncos finished in the top seven in the nation in every major defensive category last season, including first in sacks (48), second in scoring defense (12.8 points per game) and second in total defense (254.7 yards per game).

The key is the dominant, athletic defensive line that returns three starters and every primary backup. The group will feature a quartet of senior starters — ends Shea McClellin (9.5 sacks) and Tyrone Crawford (seven sacks), and tackles Billy Winn (4.5) and Chase Baker (4.5).

Three of the top four linebackers return, including senior middle linebacker Byron Hout. Hout missed the final four games with a broken foot — and his absence noticeably affected the run defense.

The concerns are in the secondary, where four-year starting safety Jeron Johnson, three-year starting cornerback Brandyn Thompson and two-year starting nickel Winston Venable are gone. Still, it's possible the Broncos will start four seniors on the back end.

The stars are senior safety George Iloka, an All-WAC pick last year, and junior cornerback Jamar Taylor, a solid starter last year who seems poised for a big year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Four-year starting kicker/punter Kyle Brotzman is gone, leaving two jobs that will be wide open in fall camp.

Freshman field goal kicker Dan Goodale impressed during spring ball but will get a challenge from incoming freshman Jake Van Ginkel. Senior punter Brad Elkin redshirted last year to play this year, but he could get a fight from kickoff specialist Trevor Harman, who has ridiculous leg strength, but lacks consistency.

The other hole in the special-teams units is on kickoff coverage — and they need to fix it quickly. The non-conference schedule is loaded with some of the best returners in the country.

OVERVIEW

This might be the Broncos' last chance to contend for the national title for a while. They have a senior-laden depth chart and a schedule stocked with eight bowl teams, including an SEC opponent (Georgia) and the Rose Bowl champion (TCU). The Broncos also are in a strong position to reach the Bowl Championship Series. They likely can go to a major bowl game with an 11-1 record, as long as they beat TCU.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Jay Ajayi: The true freshman from Plano, Texas, should step in as the No. 3 tailback. He rushed for 2,240 yards and 35 touchdowns as a high school senior, flashing an impressive combination of speed and power.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**11**	**Kellen Moore***	**6-0**	**191**	**Sr.**
TB	**22**	**Doug Martin***	**5-9**	**215**	**Sr.**
FB	**47**	**Dan Paul***	**6-0**	**250**	**Sr.**
TE	80	Kyle Efaw	6-4	242	Sr.
WR	89	Tyler Shoemaker	6-1	213	Sr.
WR	82	Geraldo Hiwat	6-4	200	So.
LT	**73**	**Nate Potter***	**6-6**	**300**	**Sr.**
LG	**61**	**Joe Kellogg***	**6-2**	**299**	**Jr.**
C	**66**	**Thomas Byrd***	**5-11**	**288**	**Sr.**
RG	76	Jake Broyles	6-4	278	So.
RT	78	Charles Leno	6-3	278	So.
DEFENSE					
DE	40	Tyrone Crawford	6-4	276	Sr.
DT	**97**	**Chase Baker***	**6-1**	**296**	**Sr.**
DT	**90**	**Billy Winn***	**6-4**	**295**	**Sr.**
DE	**92**	**Shea McClellin***	**6-3**	**258**	**Sr.**
LB	**94**	**Byron Hout***	**6-0**	**240**	**Sr.**
LB	**36**	**Aaron Tevis***	**6-3**	**232**	**Sr.**
NB	25	Hunter White	5-11	206	Sr.
CB	**21**	**Jamar Taylor***	**5-11**	**194**	**Jr.**
CB	4	Jerrell Gavins	5-9	175	Sr.
SS	16	Cedric Febis	6-3	202	Sr.
FS	**8**	**George Iloka***	**6-3**	**216**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	NA	Jake Van Ginkel	6-0	175	Fr.
P	49	Brad Elkin	6-2	194	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	vs. Georgia (Atlanta)
Sept. 17	at Toledo
Sept. 24	TULSA
Oct. 1	NEVADA
Oct. 7	at Fresno State
Oct. 15	at Colorado State
Oct. 22	AIR FORCE
Nov. 5	at UNLV
Nov. 12	TCU
Nov. 19	at San Diego State
Nov. 26	WYOMING
Dec. 3	NEW MEXICO

2010 RESULTS

W	at Virginia Tech	33-30
W	at Wyoming	51-6
W	OREGON STATE	37-24
W	at New Mexico State	59-0
W	TOLEDO	57-14
W	at San Jose State	48-0
W	LOUISIANA TECH	49-20
W	HAWAII	42-7
W	at Idaho	52-14
W	FRESNO STATE	51-0
L	at Nevada (OT)	31-34
W	UTAH STATE	50-14
	Las Vegas Bowl	
W	vs. Utah	26-3

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	45.1	2
Rushing	200.2	21
Passing	321.1	6
Total	521.3	2
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	12.8	2
Rushing	103.8	7
Passing	150.9	4
Total	254.7	2
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
+8	+0.62	22

COLORADO STATE | RAMS

MWC rank: 7 Record: 3-9 overall MWC record: 2-6 (T-6th) Stadium: Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium (32,500)

By Natalie Meisler

Photo by David Durochik/SportPics

"He's gotten better from a technique standpoint. We've been able to tighten down some of the things."
— Coach Steve Fairchild on QB Pete Thomas

RAMS at a GLANCE

COACH: Steve Fairchild — At Colorado State and overall: 13-24, 3 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pat Meyer
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Larry Kerr

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2002
LAST BOWL: 2008, New Mexico Bowl
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 6 offense, 6 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Pete Thomas, WR Lou Greenwood, LB Mychal Sisson, CB Momo Thomas, P Pete Kontodiakos, K Ben DeLine

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The defense is built around quickness at linebacker. The offense comes back fresh now that Thomas has a year of experience. The Rams have one of the best punting/placekicking tandems in the league.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: This team needs to build some confidence in a hurry and can't afford to slip in the opener at New Mexico. There is no sign of a feature running back emerging, although the depth and change-up in style might end up being a benefit. Outside of the linebackers, plenty of questions remain on the defense.

OFFENSE

For the first time in his four seasons as head coach, Steve Fairchild has a returning full-time starter at quarterback — strong-armed sophomore Pete Thomas.

It could be sink or swim. Nobody else on the roster has taken a college snap. Thomas, not the most mobile quarterback, took 3.7 sacks per game as the team placed next to last nationally in that category. Often, Thomas just waited too long to get rid of the ball.

Thomas completed 64.7 percent of his passes for 2,662 yards but was picked off 13 times. His experience allowed the coaches this spring to work more on red-zone packages, another liability in 2010.

Further complicating Thomas' learning curve was the absence of a go-to receiver. Inconsistency plagued the position.

Colorado State hasn't had a running game since Gartrell Johnson rode off into the Albuquerque sunset of the 2008 New Mexico Bowl. It's been by committee for two straight years with no signs of having an every-down back.

The biggest move on offense came during the final week of spring ball when Crockett Gillmore, a defensive end recruited as a tight end in 2010, returned to his original position. He could become an immediate-impact starter.

On the line, the most pleasant surprise last season was center Weston Richburg, who earned Freshman All-America honors.

DEFENSE

Colorado State made multiple changes in the offseason. To utilize improved team speed, the Rams will work more out of a 3-4 than the base 4-3. Every coaching assignment changed, except that Larry Kerr remains coordinator, albeit without his traditional linebackers responsibility.

The strength of the defense is at linebacker. Senior Mychal Sisson is the leader. Sophomore Mike Orakpo, the younger brother of former NFL first-rounder Brian Orakpo, moves into a full-time starting role. The linebacking corps would have been set three across, but returning starter Michael Kawulok underwent knee surgery in the spring.

Kerr preferred to remain vague on all the changes to the scheme. Some players even spoke of employing six defensive backs.

The big switch of the spring had senior Elijah-Blu Smith moving from safety to cornerback, replacing sophomore Shaq Bell on the depth chart. When Bell took over as a true freshman for injured veteran Momo Thomas, opponents tested the rookie with often-predictable results.

Other than Ivory Herd and Ezra Thompson, there isn't much safety experience given Smith's move.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior punter Pete Kontodiakos has lived up to his prep All-America accolades by averaging 43.7 yards per attempt. Senior Ben DeLine led the MWC in field goals at 1.33 a game. Wide receiver Tony Drake, the fastest man on the team at 4.37 seconds for 40 yards, will return kicks.

OVERVIEW

Little separates CSU from the rest of the MWC's second tier, except a returning quarterback. If the Rams don't start out with at least a 4-1 record, there's no way of achieving the confidence for the more-difficult second half of the schedule.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Thomas Coffman: The redshirt would have played as a true freshman if not for an injury in preseason camp. He's one of the three fastest players (sub-4.4) on the team and will give the Rams a fresh look with a deep threat.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**4**	**Pete Thomas***	**6-5**	**219**	**So.**
RB	**20**	**Raymond Carter***	**6-0**	**216**	**Sr.**
FB	34	Joe Brown	6-3	232	So.
WR	**1**	**Lou Greenwood***	**6-0**	**181**	**Sr.**
WR	9	Marquise Law	6-4	199	Jr.
TE	99	Crockett Gillmore	6-6	241	Sr.
WT	**76**	**Paul Madsen***	**6-4**	**313**	**Sr.**
WG	**58**	**Jake Gdowski***	**6-3**	**309**	**Sr.**
C	**70**	**Weston Richburg***	**6-4**	**302**	**So.**
SG	64	Jordan Gragert	6-4	294	So.
ST	77	Joe Caprioglio	6-6	318	Jr.
DEFENSE					
DE	**9**	**C.J. James***	**6-3**	**241**	**Jr.**
DT	57	John Froland	6-5	260	Fr.
NT	92	Nuku Latu	6-2	300	Sr.
DE	**29**	**Broderick Sargent***	**6-2**	**237**	**Jr.**
LB	**6**	**Mychal Sisson***	**5-11**	**207**	**Sr.**
LB	43	James Skelton	6-2	226	Jr.
LB	1	Mike Orakpo	6-1	215	So.
CB	**5**	**Momo Thomas***	**5-9**	**183**	**Jr.**
CB	**22**	**Elijah-Blu Smith***	**5-11**	**195**	**Sr.**
SS	**35**	**Ivory Herd***	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**
FS	37	Austin Gray	6-3	209	Fr.
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**14**	**Ben DeLine***	**6-0**	**183**	**Sr.**
P	**41**	**Pete Kontodiakos***	**6-3**	**219**	**Jr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	at New Mexico
Sept. 10	NORTHERN COLORADO
Sept. 17	vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 24	at Utah State
Oct. 1	SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 15	BOISE STATE
Oct. 22	at UTEP
Oct. 29	at UNLV
Nov. 12	SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 19	at TCU
Nov. 26	AIR FORCE
Dec. 3	WYOMING

2010 RESULTS

L	vs. Colorado	3-24
L	at Nevada	6-51
L	at Miami (OH)	10-31
W	IDAHO	36-34
L	TCU	0-27
L	at Air Force	27-49
W	UNLV	43-10
L	at Utah	6-59
W	NEW MEXICO	38-14
L	at San Diego State	19-24
L	BYU	10-49
L	at Wyoming	0-44

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	16.5	114
Rushing	113.0	103
Passing	221.8	60
Total	334.8	87
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	34.7	104
Rushing	197.9	102
Passing	225.9	74
Total	423.8	96
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
-8	-0.67	105

SAN DIEGO STATE | AZTECS

Mountain West rank: 4 Record: 9-4 MWC record: 5-3 (T-3rd) Stadium: Qualcomm (54,000)

By Tom Shanahan

Photo by Christopher Hanewinckel-US PRESSWIRE

Ryan Lindley

"Everything is in place here that we can be a great program."
— Coach Rocky Long

AZTECS at a GLANCE

COACH: Rocky Long — At San Diego State: 1st year; overall: 65-69, 11 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Andy Ludwig
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rocky Long

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1986, WAC
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2009
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 7 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Ryan Lindley, RB Ronnie Hillman, TE Alston Umuolo, TE Gavin Escobar, RG Nik Embernate, DT Jerome Long, LB Miles Burris, CB Leon McFadden

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offense features a fourth-year starting quarterback considered an NFL prospect, and Hillman rushed for 1,532 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. Lindley has Hillman and talented tight ends to rely on in the passing game until his young wide receivers mature.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The Aztecs are young at wide receiver and defensive line, although they feel they've recruited well at those positions and have redshirt freshmen in position to contribute. Youngsters could also end up having to contribute in an inexperienced secondary.

OFFENSE

Quarterback Ryan Lindley is a fourth-year starter playing a pro-style offense for the third consecutive year.

When new SDSU head coach Rocky Long hired Andy Ludwig from Cal as his offensive coordinator, he instructed Ludwig to learn the Aztecs' pro-style offense terminology, so it was the coaches adjusting, not the players.

A Lindley strength is reading defenses, and that will be especially valued as he learns to play with a new cast of wide receivers. Running back Ronnie Hillman, the MWC Freshman of the Year last season, will catch more balls out of the backfield this year. Hillman also has a true blocking back this year in 250-pound sophomore fullback Chad Young.

The Aztecs will compensate for a young wide receiver corps with a veteran cast of four tight ends. Alston Umuolo, Gavin Escobar and Bryce Quigley can get deep, while D.J. Shields is a solid blocker.

Overall, SDSU has more talent and depth to balance its pro-style offense than it had last year when it averaged 456.7 yards per game.

DEFENSE

Defense will always be a strength as long as Long is coaching at San Diego State. At New Mexico, where he installed his vaunted 3-3-5 scheme, the Lobos were among the nation's top-ranked defenses.

He took a San Diego State unit ranked 113th in total defense the year before he arrived and guided it to a tie for 43rd in 2010.

The Aztecs could have all-conference defenders at three levels — Miles Burris at outside linebacker, junior Leon McFadden at cornerback and nose tackle Jerome Long, who is poised for a big year with additional weight.

Only having five returning defensive starters is misleading for two reasons. Long rotates 22 to 24 defenders to keep his players fresh, meaning the backups have experience similar to the starters. In addition, senior "Warrior" safety Dey Juan Hemmings was a starter in 2009 before a foot injury ended his 2010 season in the second game.

The Aztecs are inexperienced on the defensive line and in the secondary, but the Aztecs have recruited well in both areas.

SPECIAL TEAMS

SDSU has one of the nation's top punters in Brian Stahovich, a first-team All-MWC pick as a junior last season. Stahovich ranked eighth in the nation at 45.4 yards a punt with 16 fair catches and 18 punts inside the 20-yard line.

Last year, the Aztecs addressed their place-kicking deficiency with Abel Perez, a local junior college transfer. He hit 17 of 22 field goal attempts with a long of 53 yards and had 28 touchbacks on kickoffs.

OVERVIEW

Long is a proven head coach who helped turn around SDSU as Brady Hoke's defensive coordinator, and he's highly respected around the MWC. He's New Mexico's all-time winningest coach from 11 seasons as head coach and was the MWC Coach of the Year in 2002. With continued good leadership, San Diego State might finally be reaching its promise as a sleeping giant.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Ezell Ruffin: The redshirt freshman is a versatile athlete who could end up running out of Wildcat formations in addition to being a breakaway wide receiver. Nebraska made a late recruiting push to poach Ruffin, but he stuck with his early commitment to the Aztecs.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	14	Ryan Lindley*	6-4	215	Sr.
RB	13	Ronnie Hillman*	5-10	190	So.
FB	40	Chad Young	5-10	250	So.
WR	18	Dominique Sandifer	6-0	190	Jr.
WR	86	Ezell Ruffin	6-1	190	Fr.
TE	7	Alston Umuolo*	6-4	250	Sr.
LT	60	Tommie Draheim*	6-4	300	Sr.
LG	53	Emilio Rivera	6-4	305	Sr.
C	71	Alec Johnson*	6-3	300	Jr.
RG	68	Nik Embernate*	6-4	295	Jr.
RT	79	Kurtis Gunther*	6-8	295	Sr.
DEFENSE					
DE	49	J.J. Autele	6-1	250	Sr.
DT	94	Jerome Long*	6-4	295	Sr.
DE	55	Neil Spencer	6-2	285	Sr.
LB	9	Miles Burris*	6-3	240	Sr.
LB	44	Rob Andrews	6-2	225	Jr.
LB	31	Logan Ketchum*	6-3	225	Sr.
CB	2	Leon McFadden*	5-10	190	Jr.
CB	12	Josh Wade	6-0	185	Jr.
S	41	Khalid Stevens	5-11	200	Jr.
S	11	Brandon Davis*	6-2	200	Sr.
S	5	Dey Juan Hemmings	5-11	210	Sr.
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	38	Abel Perez*	6-1	225	Sr.
P	14	Brian Stahovich*	6-0	190	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	CAL POLY
Sept. 10	at Army
Sept. 17	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 24	at Michigan
Oct. 8	TCU
Oct. 13	at Air Force
Oct. 29	WYOMING
Nov. 5	NEW MEXICO
Nov. 12	at Colorado State
Nov. 19	BOISE STATE
Nov. 26	at UNLV
Dec. 3	FRESNO STATE

2010 RESULTS

W	NICHOLLS STATE	47-0
W	at New Mexico State	41-21
L	at Missouri	24-27
W	UTAH STATE	41-7
L	at BYU	21-24
W	AIR FORCE	27-25
W	at New Mexico	30-20
W	at Wyoming	48-38
W	COLORADO STATE	24-19
L	at TCU	35-40
L	UTAH	34-38
W	UNLV	48-14
	Poinsettia Bowl	
W	vs. Navy	35-14

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	35.0	19
Rushing	161.3	48
Passing	295.4	12
Total	456.7	16
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	22.1	36
Rushing	148.8	57
Passing	205.0	38
Total	353.8	43
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
-6	-0.46	86

PICKING **THE WAC**

Trio of Teams Will Lead — and Then Leave — the League

The gaping hole left by Boise State's departure to the Mountain West Conference will be difficult to fill for the eight remaining league members. The Broncos gave the WAC the kind of street cred needed to be recognized on the nation's grandest stage.

Now it's up to Nevada, Fresno State and Hawaii, who will all join the Broncos in the Mountain West in 2012, to help the WAC in its hour of need.

Barring some unforeseen circumstances, the league's winner will be one, two or all three of these teams. Hawaii and Nevada shared the conference crown last year with Boise State and should be near the top of the heap once the 2011 season draws to a close.

Of the three, only Hawaii returns its starting quarterback — senior Bryant Moniz. He led the nation in total yards per game (367.3) and touchdowns (39), but will be hard-pressed to match those numbers with a rebuilt offensive line and wide receiver corps. The Warriors lost their top three wideouts and running back to graduation, and they will rely on a rugged defense to hold the fort until the new kids come to town.

At least they have a starting quarterback. Nevada not only loses all-everything signal-caller Colin Kaepernick, but tough running back Vai Taua, as well. That talented two-some accounted for 415.8 yards in total offense, leaving the Pistol packing blanks.

Like Hawaii, Nevada has a good defense to turn to in the early going. And 2010 Coach of the Year Chris Ault will need that unit to be stout given a schedule that includes Oregon, Texas Tech and Boise State — all on the road.

Fresno State could sneak in and steal the day at season's end. The Bulldogs don't have a proven quarterback either, but they do have a good ground attack and a defense capable of making big plays. Head coach Pat Hill welcomes back leading rusher Robbie Rouse, big-time defensive tackle Logan Harrell and senior placekicker Kevin Goessling, who has 51 career field goals.

After those three, you can pretty much shake them up and see where they land. The remaining five teams have some individual talent, but not enough depth to challenge the conference's big three.

That leaves things up in the air for a majority of the league's teams and that's not a good thing. Neither is the loss of Boise State and its powerful program. As tired as the WAC got of having the Broncos win the league title, they will be sorely missed.

— Paul Arnett

WAC Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Hawaii	With Bryant Moniz back under center, the Warriors are in good hands.	The offensive line is a collection of fifth-year castoffs not ready for prime time.	With most of the league's teams starting from scratch, Hawaii is the one to beat.
2. Fresno State	Running back Robbie Rouse rules the Bulldogs' patented rushing attack.	Defense loses two talented All-WAC performers, including Player of Year Chris Carter.	Even with the loss of several top players, veteran coach Pat Hill finds a way to compete.
3. Nevada	The Wolf Pack defense returns seven starters, including four of its top six tacklers.	The loss of Colin Kaepernick and Vai Taua figures to be too much to overcome.	If Chris Ault can reload his offense, he has a shot to compete for another league title.
4. Louisiana Tech	Several potential All-WAC performers are back for Bulldogs.	All-purpose guru Phillip Livas and quarterback Ross Jenkins have left the building.	Louisiana Tech has several holes to fill in order to compete with WAC's upper echelon.
5. Utah State	Aggies welcome back their top three tacklers, including All-WAC LB Bobby Wagner.	Losing standout quarterback Diondre Borel will be tough to overcome.	With 16 starters back, including six who went down with injuries, the Aggies could make some noise.
6. Idaho	With an experienced defense returning, the Vandals could be tough to handle.	The offense was not as fortunate as the defense when graduation was held in the spring.	Idaho still lacks the star power to compete for league championship.
7. New Mexico State	With 17 starters back on the sidelines, the Aggies do have experience.	The offense has struggled in the first two years of coach DeWayne Walker's regime.	Finding the right offensive blend will be key for the Aggies to be competitive in league play.
8. San Jose State	Having all 11 starters returning on defense should be a positive for the Spartans.	Losing all eight games in the WAC is a tough stumbling block to overcome.	The return of All-WAC defender Duke Ihenacho isn't enough to escape the cellar.

Lindy's 2011 ALL-WAC Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Bryant Moniz	Sr.	Hawaii
RB	Robbie Rouse	Jr.	Fresno State
RB	Lennon Creer	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
WR	Jamel Hamler	Sr.	Fresno State
WR	Rishard Matthews	Sr.	Nevada
TE	Ryan Otten	Jr.	San Jose State
C	Tyler Larsen	So.	Utah State
OL	Bryce Harris	Sr.	Fresno State
OL	Chris Barker	Jr.	Nevada
OL	Tyrone Novikoff	Sr.	Idaho
OL	Aundre McGaskey	Sr.	New Mexico State
AP	Kerwynn Williams	Jr.	Utah State
K	Kevin Goessling	Sr.	Fresno State

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Logan Harrell	Sr.	Fresno State
DL	Kaniela Tuipulotu	Sr.	Hawaii
DL	Matt Broha	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DL	Michael Cosgrove	Sr.	Idaho
LB	Corey Paredes	Sr.	Hawaii
LB	Bobby Wagner	Sr.	Utah State
LB	Keith Smith	So.	San Jose State
DB	Duke Ihenacho	Sr.	San Jose State
DB	Isaiah Frey	Sr.	Nevada
DB	Chad Boyd	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
DB	Phillip Thomas	Jr.	Fresno State
P	Bobby Cowan	Jr.	Idaho

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Matt Christian	Sr.	New Mexico State
RB	Robert Turbin	Jr.	Utah State
RB	Kenny Turner	Jr.	New Mexico State
WR	Royce Pollard	Sr.	Hawaii
WR	Noel Grigsby	So.	San Jose State
TE	Kellen Bartlett	Sr.	Utah State
C	Mike Grady	Sr.	New Mexico State
OL	Jeff Nady	Jr.	Nevada
OL	Funaki Asisi	Sr.	Utah State
OL	Kevin Saia	Jr.	New Mexico State
OL	David Quessenberry	Jr.	San Jose State
AP	Taveon Rogers	Sr.	New Mexico State
K	Tyler Stampler	Jr.	New Mexico State

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Pierre Fils	Jr.	New Mexico State
DL	Travis Johnson	Jr.	San Jose State
DL	Brett Roy	Sr.	Nevada
DL	Vaughn Meatoga	Sr.	Hawaii
LB	Jay Dudley	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
LB	Adrien Cole	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
LB	Tre'Shawn Robinson	Sr.	Idaho
DB	Quinton Byrd	Jr.	Utah State
DB	Richard Torres	Sr.	Hawaii
DB	Ronnie Yell	Jr.	San Jose State
DB	Donyae Coleman	Sr.	New Mexico State
P	Harrison Waid	So.	San Jose State

THE BIG ONES

Sept. 3	Utah State at Auburn
Sept. 3	San Jose State at Stanford
Sept. 3	Colorado at Hawaii
Sept. 10	Fresno State at Nebraska
Sept. 10	Nevada at Oregon
Sept. 10	Hawaii at Washington
Sept. 17	Idaho at Texas A&M
Sept. 30	Utah State at BYU
Oct. 1	Nevada at Boise State
Oct. 7	Boise State at Fresno State
Oct. 22	Fresno State at Nevada
Nov. 5	New Mexico State at Georgia
Nov. 12	Hawaii at Nevada
Nov. 19	Fresno State at Hawaii
Dec. 3	BYU at Hawaii

BOWL CONNECTIONS

Champion
uDrove Humanitarian Bowl
vs. MAC

WAC #2 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl
vs. Conference USA

WAC #3 Poinsettia Bowl
vs. Mountain West

WAC
WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Bryant Moniz	QB	Sr.	Hawaii	Led nation in total offense (367.3 ypg) and TDs (39).
2. Duke Ihenacho	DB	Sr.	San Jose State	Two-time All-WAC; returns after redshirting.
3. Logan Harrell	DT	Sr.	Fresno State	Was 13th in NCAA with 10.5 sacks.
4. Kerwynn Williams	AP	Jr.	Utah State	Finished sixth in country in all-purpose yards.
5. Robbie Rouse	RB	Jr.	Fresno State	Was 13th in the nation with 1,129 yards rushing.
6. Rishard Matthews	WR	Sr.	Nevada	Led Wolf Pack in receptions with 56 for 879 yards.
7. Bobby Wagner	LB	Sr.	Utah State	Was first in the WAC in total tackles with 133.
8. Keith Smith	LB	So.	San Jose State	Leading tackler among nation's freshmen with 116.
9. Lennon Creer	RB	Sr.	Louisiana Tech	Finished first in WAC with 1,181 yards, 10 TDs.
10. Isaiah Frey	DB	Sr.	Nevada	His 15 pass breakups were second in the WAC in 2010.

Most Valuable Player	Offensive Player of the Year	Defensive Player of the Year	Newcomer of the Year
Bryant Moniz QB, Hawaii	Robbie Rouse RB, Fresno State	Duke Ihenacho DB, San Jose State	Ryan Bass RB, Idaho

HONOR ROLL

Most Accurate Passer	Bryant Moniz	Hawaii
Strongest Arm	Matt Christian	New Mexico State
Best Scrambler	Matt Christian	New Mexico State
Coolest in the Clutch	Bryant Moniz	Hawaii
Toughest to Bring Down	Lennon Creer	Louisiana Tech
Best Hands	Jamel Hamler	Fresno State
Most Dangerous Deep Threat	Rishard Matthews	Nevada
Best Pass Blocker	Bryce Harris	Fresno State
Best Run Blocker	Chris Barker	Nevada
Best Pass Rusher	Logan Harrell	Fresno State
Best Cover Corner	Isaiah Frey	Nevada
Special Teams Demon	Kerwynn Williams	Utah State

FRESNO STATE | BULLDOGS

WAC rank: 2 | Record: 8-5 | WAC record: 5-3 (4th) | Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

By Bryant-Jon Anteola

Photo by Cary Edmondson-US PRESSWIRE

Robbie Rouse

"He won't be able to ease his way in. He's going to get some big boy games those first six weeks."
— Coach Pat Hill, on QB Derek Carr

BULLDOGS at a GLANCE

COACH: Pat Hill — At Fresno State and overall: 108-71, 14 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jeff Grady
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Randy Stewart

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1999
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2006
RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 4 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Derek Carr, RB Robbie Rouse, DT Logan Harrell, OLB Travis Brown, K Kevin Goessling

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Fresno State always likes to control a game's pace with its running game, and Rouse will allow the Bulldogs to do that again. The Bulldogs also have a lot of depth at receiver, though none of the players are established stars. Goessling is as steady as it gets.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: A young offensive line, which returns only one starter, could lead to trouble for Carr, who will be in his first year as the starting quarterback. The defense also will struggle to duplicate last year's pass rush without WAC Defensive Player of the Year Chris Carter.

OFFENSE

Fresno State has been a ground-oriented club throughout Pat Hill's tenure, with running backs such as Ryan Mathews, Dwayne Wright and Michael Pittman all passing through before playing in the NFL.

But there is going to be a change for the first time since David Carr directed the Bulldogs in 2001. Fresno State appears intent to air it out more and take advantage of new quarterback Derek Carr's skill set.

David's younger brother showed off a quick release and instant decision-making in spring camp. Teammates have taken a liking to Carr's command, with their biggest adjustment being their ability to catch his fast throws.

Carr redshirted last season after serving as a third-string reserve while a true freshman in 2009.

Hill has talked about going no-huddle and using more spread formations. Fresno State has devoted parts of its past three recruiting classes to bringing in players who can maneuver in the open field.

But Hill also said that pass protection will dictate how much spread formations the Bulldogs actually use. The North-South power running style, after all, is what Hill knows best and what Fresno State has always used during his tenure.

Running back Robbie Rouse averaged 5.5 yards per carry last season, but struggled to stay healthy.

DEFENSE

As with its offense, Fresno State has been gearing its defensive schemes around the spread attack — how better to stop the spread.

That has meant skipping on the big and burly linebackers for more mobile, can-tackle-in-space types, and it has meant recruiting safeties who can pass cover just as well as they can deliver big hits to stop the run.

But change always has been slow at Fresno State, so don't expect to see a drastic difference from what's been shown before. This is still a unit that struggles stopping the run and does an adequate job slowing down the passing attack.

The star of the unit is defensive tackle Logan Harrell, who had a huge 2010 season with 10.5 sacks. Sophomore linebacker Travis Brown, a prized recruit from 2009, hasn't disappointed. He had 79 tackles, including nine for loss last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Flash back three years ago, and kicker Kevin Goessling looked like a lost freshman, overwhelmed by the kicking responsibilities. Now, Goessling is one of the best in the country and almost a sure thing when kicking within 40 yards. Goessling has made 36 of 41 field goal attempts in the past two seasons.

OVERVIEW

The Bulldogs have been consistently good — going to a bowl game in 11 of the past 12 seasons and annually taking on some of the biggest name opponents nationwide. But they've rarely been great, with only one WAC title (a tri-championship from 1999) to show for their league accomplishments.

With Boise State off to the Mountain West and Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick off to the NFL, Fresno State needs to take advantage of its final season in the WAC.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Kyrie Wilson: The 6-2, 210-pound standout was headed to Oregon before the Ducks pulled their scholarship offer. That left the Bulldogs in great shape to sign a player who should fit the team's new emphasis on more mobile, versatile defenders.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	4	Derek Carr	6-3	190	So.
RB	**8**	**Robbie Rouse***	**5-7**	**185**	**Jr.**
FB	45	Riley Barnes	6-3	220	Fr.
WR	**6**	**Jalen Saunders***	**5-9**	**170**	**So.**
WR	7	Devon Wylie	5-9	170	Sr.
WR	**11**	**Rashad Evans***	**5-11**	**190**	**Jr.**
LT	**70**	**Bryce Harris***	**6-6**	**295**	**Sr.**
LG	51	Matt Hunt	6-2	315	Jr.
C	78	Richard Helepiko	6-2	290	So.
RG	62	Leslie Cooper	6-4	305	Sr.
RT	72	Austin Wentworth	6-5	305	So.
DEFENSE					
DE	90	Nat Harrison	6-2	215	So.
NT	65	Chase McEntee	6-3	285	Sr.
DT	**77**	**Logan Harrell***	**6-2**	**275**	**Sr.**
DE	94	Donahvaughn Pritchett	6-5	290	Sr.
LB	**53**	**Kyle Knox***	**6-1**	**215**	**Sr.**
LB	32	Jeremiah Toma	6-0	215	So.
LB	**9**	**Travis Brown***	**6-2**	**235**	**So.**
CB	4	L.J. Jones	5-11	170	So.
CB	10	Isaiah Green	5-10	180	Sr.
SS	**13**	**Derron Smith***	**5-11**	**190**	**So.**
FS	**16**	**Phillip Thomas***	**6-1**	**205**	**Jr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**35**	**Kevin Goessling***	**6-0**	**190**	**Sr.**
P	**38**	**Andrew Shapiro***	**6-1**	**180**	**Jr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	vs. California (San Francisco)
Sept. 10	at Nebraska
Sept. 17	NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 24	at Idaho
Oct. 1	OLE MISS
Oct. 7	BOISE STATE
Oct. 15	UTAH STATE
Oct. 22	at Nevada
Nov. 5	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 12	at New Mexico State
Nov. 19	at Hawaii
Nov. 26	SAN JOSE STATE
Dec. 3	at San Diego State

2010 RESULTS

W	CINCINNATI	28-14
W	at Utah State	41-24
L	at Ole Miss	38-55
W	CAL POLY	38-17
L	HAWAII	27-49
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	33-10
W	at San Jose State	33-18
W	at Louisiana Tech	40-34
L	NEVADA	34-35
L	at Boise State	0-51
W	IDAHO	23-20
W	ILLINOIS	25-23
	Humanitarian Bowl	
L	vs. Northern Illinois	17-40

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.0	48
Rushing	150.6	65
Passing	220.0	61
Total	370.6	70

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.0	83
Rushing	158.5	66
Passing	208.8	45
Total	367.2	59

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-11	-0.85	110

HAWAII | WARRIORS

WAC rank: 1 | Record: 10-4 | WAC record: 7-1 (T-1st) | Stadium: Aloha Stadium (50,000)

By Paul Arnett

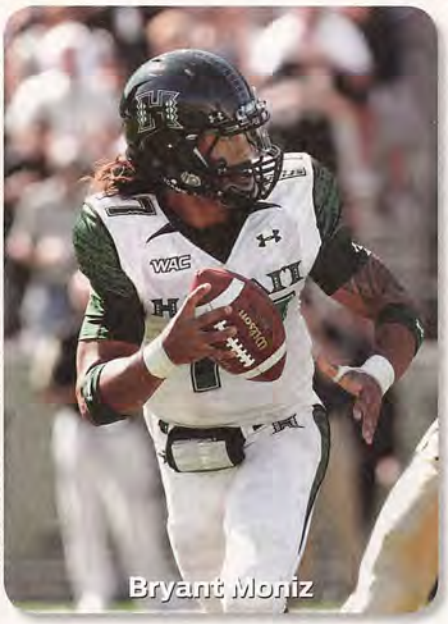

Photo by Frank DiBrango

"We did a lot of good things this spring. And I couldn't be prouder of our defense. They will be a force this season."

— Coach Greg McMackin

WARRIORS at a GLANCE

COACH: Greg McMackin — At Hawaii and overall: 23-18, 3 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Nick Rolovich
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Aranda

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010, co-champs
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2009
RETURNING STARTERS: 9; 2 offense, 6 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Bryant Moniz, WR Royce Pollard, WR Darius Bright, DT Kaniela Tuipulotu, DT Vaughn Meatoga, LB Corey Paredes, S Richard Torres

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Warriors will be stronger defensively than they have been in the past. With six starters back and a bevy of talented newcomers on the way, teams won't be scoring 25 to 30 points a game against this unit. Paredes is the key component of the defense after earning first-team All-WAC honors by averaging 10.8 stops per game.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Hawaii has become one of the most notable passing units in the country since June Jones arrived in 1999. That didn't change even with his departure four years ago. But something might give with only two starters back and a makeshift offensive line.

OFFENSE

Hawaii is starting over on offense. The entire offensive line, talented running back Alex Green and three of the top four wideouts, including Greg Salas, are gone.

When quarterback Bryant Moniz breaks the huddle, the only player he will remember from 2010 is receiver Royce Pollard, who doesn't strike fear in the hearts of opposing defenses, despite catching 64 passes for 901 yards and seven touchdowns.

What Hawaii has is converted wideout Billy Ray Stutzmann at one slot position and part-time point guard Miah Ostrowski at the other. Stutzmann caught 13 passes for 130 yards and one touchdown in 2010. Ostrowski had no receptions.

Junior college transfer Darius Bright is somebody to watch out for after redshirting last season. He's big, fast and can stretch a defense.

Moniz, the only returning starting quarterback in the WAC, threw for 5,040 yards and 39 touchdowns last season, completing 361 of 555 passes. His passing efficiency rating of 159.1 was eighth nationally.

The top running back is converted linebacker Sterling Jackson.

DEFENSE

Hawaii, with six returning starters, figures to have one of the best defenses in the league again.

Defensive tackles Vaughn Meatoga and Kaniela Tuipulotu are part of a five-man rotation that promises to be good against the run and put pressure on the passer.

Paipai Falemalu will start at one defensive end spot, with Marcus Malepeai, Beau Yap, Alasi Toiolo and Alema Tachibana figuring into the mix as well. Coordinator Dave Aranda likes the motor and big strides of 6-5 freshman Desmond Dean.

The key linebacker spot belongs to co-captain and leading returning tackler Corey Paredes, who sat out the spring with a shoulder injury. Art Laurel and Darryl McBride are working at a hybrid spot that blends being a pass rusher and run defender with dropping into coverage.

Aaron Brown is an every-down guy, and George Daily-Lyles had an excellent spring, as did Jordan Monico, all of which gives Hawaii a good blend at linebacker.

Safety Richard Torres leads the secondary. Free safety Kenny Estes hopes to overcome an injury-plagued career. Tank Hopkins redshirted last year but is considered the team's top cover man.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This group was so bad last year that halfway through the season the punt returners were ordered just to make a fair-catch and nothing else. The kicking competition is up in the air with Tyler Hadden, Kyle Niiro and Kenton Chun battling for the starting nod.

Former Hawaii head coach Dick Tomey, who also had successful stints at Arizona and San Jose State, was hired to improve the special teams. His teams traditionally have been successful blocking kicks. He has Samson Anguay penciled in as the punt returner and will have an open competition for kickoff returns.

OVERVIEW

With Boise State out of the WAC — and Nevada and Fresno State facing some rebuilding issues — it's not hard to imagine Hawaii finishing on top of the league. The Warriors are the only WAC team with a returning starting quarterback, and their defense figures to be the best in the league.

TOP NEWCOMER

CB Mike Edwards: He's a sophomore transfer from Tennessee who sat out last season while attending Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College. He could earn a starting job at one corner in fall camp. He played in eight games as a true freshman for the Volunteers in 2009.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	17	**Bryant Moniz***	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**
RB	27	Sterling Jackson	6-0	220	Jr.
WR	81	**Royce Pollard***	**6-0**	**175**	**Sr.**
WR	18	Darius Bright	6-3	230	Jr.
SB	5	Billy Ray Stutzmann	6-0	165	So.
SB	80	Jeremiah Ostrowski	5-9	175	Jr.
LT	72	Clayton Laurel	6-2	290	Sr.
LG	54	Brett Leonard	6-5	310	Sr.
C	56	Matagisila Lefiti	6-0	285	Sr.
RG	62	Chauncy Makainai	6-4	310	So.
RT	68	Sean Shigematsu	6-4	270	Fr.

DEFENSE

DE	42	Paipai Falemalu	6-3	240	Jr.
DT	95	**Vaughn Meatoga***	**6-2**	**285**	**Sr.**
DT	49	**Kaniela Tuipulotu***	**6-2**	**300**	**Sr.**
DE	98	Liko Satele	6-2	260	Sr.
LB	41	**Corey Paredes***	**5-11**	**235**	**Sr.**
LB	24	**Aaron Brown***	**6-1**	**220**	**Sr.**
LB	55	George Daily-Lyles	5-11	235	So.
CB	4	Tank Hopkins	5-10	175	Sr.
CB	33	**John Hardy-Tuliau***	**5-11**	**165**	**So.**
S	19	**Richard Torres***	**5-8**	**180**	**Sr.**
S	37	Kenny Estes	6-0	210	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Tyler Hadden	5-10	170	Fr.
P	31	**Alex Dunnachie***	**6-6**	**220**	**Jr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	COLORADO
Sept. 10	at Washington
Sept. 17	at UNLV
Sept. 24	UC DAVIS
Oct. 1	at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 15	at San Jose State
Oct. 22	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 29	at Idaho
Nov. 5	UTAH STATE
Nov. 12	at Nevada
Nov. 19	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 26	TULANE
Dec. 3	BYU

2010 RESULTS

L	USC	36-49
W	at Army	31-28
L	at Colorado	13-31
W	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	66-7
W	LOUISIANA TECH	41-21
W	at Fresno State	49-27
W	NEVADA	27-21
W	at Utah State	45-7
W	IDAHO	45-10
L	at Boise State	7-42
W	SAN JOSE STATE	41-7
W	at New Mexico State	59-24
W	UNLV	59-21
	Hawaii Bowl	
L	vs. Tulsa	35-62

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	39.6	10
Rushing	106.4	107
Passing	394.3	1
Total	500.6	6

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.5	58
Rushing	135.8	40
Passing	221.7	63
Total	357.6	51

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+12	+0.86	14

NEVADA | WOLF PACK

WAC rank: 3 Record: 13-1 WAC record: 7-1 WAC (T-1st) Stadium: Mackay Stadium (29,993)

By Chris Murray

Photo by Douglas C. Pizac-US PRESSWIRE

"Whether it's play action or drop back, that doesn't really matter. We're going to throw it more. That's what we're working on. We're adding some wrinkles." — Coach Chris Ault

WOLF PACK at a GLANCE

COACH: Chris Ault — At Nevada and overall: 219-97-1, 26 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Chris Ault
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Andy Buh

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2004
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 6 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Tyler Lantrip, RB Mike Ball, WR Rishard Matthews, WR Brandon Wimberly, LB James-Michael Johnson, DT Brett Roy, CB Isaiah Frey, S Duke Williams

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Pack should have another strong running attack this year behind a veteran line. Nevada's secondary is as athletic as it has been in years. A senior-stacked linebacker corps will lead a defense that's expected to take another step forward after a solid 2010 campaign.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Nevada loses a pair of ultra-productive offensive players — Colin Kaepernick and Vai Taua. Outside of the offensive line, there's a lot of inexperience offensively. The Pack has no experienced depth at defensive end, which could lead to a risky blitzed-based scheme.

OFFENSE

The biggest question facing Nevada is how it replaces quarterback Colin Kaepernick, the program's all-time leader in career passing touchdowns and career rushing touchdowns.

While coach Chris Ault said he wouldn't name a starter until late in fall camp, the heir apparent is Tyler Lantrip. The senior has played sparingly behind Kaepernick, completing 12 of 23 passes for 192 yards with one touchdown.

The other quarterbacks vying for the starting job are sophomore Mason Magleby and freshman Cody Fajardo.

Ault said he's made a few tweaks to his brainchild Pistol offense and intends to throw the ball more often this year after the Pack finished in the top three nationally in rushing in each of the past three seasons.

The Pack also has to replace running back Vai Taua, who accounted for 5,159 and 53 touchdowns in his career. The frontrunner for the job is high-ceiling junior Mike Ball, although Nevada's deep running backs corps will push him.

Four starting linemen return on a unit Ault has dubbed "The Union" and called the "heart and soul" of the team.

Two all-conference receivers are back in Rishard Matthews and Brandon Wimberly. Matthews led Nevada with 56 receptions and 879 yards last season.

DEFENSE

Most of this century, the Nevada defense has been the team's Achilles' heel. That wasn't the case last year, the Pack's first under defensive coordinator Andy Buh. The Pack allowed 21.4 points per game last year after yielding 28.5 the season prior.

The Pack returns seven defensive starters, including all-conference linebacker James-Michael Johnson, cornerback Isaiah Frey and defensive tackle Brett Roy.

Nevada has to replace defensive ends Dontay Moch and Ryan Coulson, who combined for 120 tackles, including 30.5 for loss, and 12 sacks last year.

Nevada recruited heavily on defense entering the season and is hoping get some instant impact on the defensive line.

The secondary took a big step forward in 2010. After allowing 33 passing touchdowns in 2009, the Pack cut that mark to 15 last season. With three starting defensive backs returning, Ault is counting on the secondary being a strength of the unit.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Last year, punt returner Rishard Matthews ended Nevada's 10-year drought without a kick or punt returned for a touchdown. He's back this season. So, too, is kick returner Mike Ball, who averaged 24.5 yards per return.

Also back is kicker Anthony Martinez, who made 11 of 15 field goal attempts. That included a game-winning 34-yard overtime field goal to upset Boise State. Nevada is in search of a kickoff specialist and punter.

OVERVIEW

Nevada is coming off the best season in program history and will be hard-pressed to repeat the effort. Early non-conference road games at Oregon, Texas Tech and Boise State will test the team's mettle. Either way, with former WAC conference juggernaut Boise State in the Mountain West Conference, Nevada should compete for its second straight WAC title.

TOP NEWCOMER

DE Rykeem Yates: The 6-2, 270-pound true freshman was part of UCLA's 2010 recruiting class before sitting out the year and deciding to sign with the Pack. He's one of the program's most-heralded recruits ever and will push for a starter's role at a position of need.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	16	Tyler Lantrip	6-4	220	Sr.
RB	5	Mike Ball	5-10	215	Jr.
WR	**15**	**Rishard Matthews***	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**
WR	**4**	**Brandon Wimberly***	**6-3**	**210**	**Jr.**
WR	23	Shane Anderson	6-1	210	Sr.
TE	44	Zach Sudfeld	6-7	250	Sr.
LT	**78**	**Jeff Nady***	**6-7**	**290**	**Jr.**
LG	**75**	**Chris Barker***	**6-4**	**305**	**Jr.**
C	**67**	**Jeff Meads***	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**
RG	**74**	**Steve Haley***	**6-5**	**305**	**Sr.**
RT	70	Joel Bitonio	6-4	300	So.
DEFENSE					
DE	51	Albert Rosette	6-2	245	Jr.
DT	**47**	**Brett Roy***	**6-4**	**280**	**Sr.**
DT	**93**	**Zack Madonick***	**6-1**	**285**	**Sr.**
DE	94	Brock Hekking	6-4	245	Fr.
LB	**33**	**Brandon Marshall***	**6-1**	**235**	**Sr.**
LB	**52**	**James-Michael Johnson***	**6-2**	**240**	**Sr.**
LB	42	DeAndre Boughton	6-1	215	Sr.
CB	**28**	**Isaiah Frey***	**6-0**	**190**	**Sr.**
CB	2	Khalid Wooten	6-0	195	Jr.
SS	**20**	**Duke Williams***	**6-1**	**190**	**Jr.**
FS	**8**	**Marlon Johnson***	**5-11**	**190**	**Jr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**40**	**Anthony Martinez***	**5-6**	**175**	**So.**
P	69	Jake Hurst	6-1	210	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at Oregon
Sept. 17	at San Jose State
Sept. 24	at Texas Tech
Oct. 1	at Boise State
Oct. 8	UNLV
Oct. 15	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 22	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 29	at New Mexico State
Nov. 12	HAWAII
Nov. 19	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 26	at Utah State
Dec. 3	IDAHO

2010 RESULTS

W	EASTERN WASHINGTON	49-24
W	COLORADO STATE	51-6
W	CALIFORNIA	52-31
W	at BYU	27-13
W	at UNLV	44-26
W	SAN JOSE STATE	35-13
L	at Hawaii	21-27
W	UTAH STATE	56-42
W	at Idaho	63-17
W	at Fresno State	35-34
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	52-6
W	BOISE STATE (OT)	34-31
W	at Louisiana Tech	35-17
	Fight Hunger Bowl	
W	vs. Boston College	20-13

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	41.0	8
Rushing	292.2	3
Passing	226.9	55
Total	519.1	4
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	21.4	31
Rushing	120.3	18
Passing	243.3	98
Total	363.6	54
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
+5	+0.36	33

SAN JOSE STATE | SPARTANS

WAC rank: 8 Record: 1-12 WAC record: 0-8 (9th) Stadium: Spartan Stadium (31,218)

By Paul Borden

Photo by Steve Beyer

"We feel much better about our team this year than this same time last year."

— Coach Mike MacIntyre

SPARTANS at a GLANCE

COACH: Mike MacIntyre — At San Jose State and overall: 1-12, 1 year
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: John DeFilippo
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kent Baer

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1991, Big West co-champs
LAST BOWL: 2006, New Mexico
RETURNING STARTERS: 19; 6 offense, 11 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Brandon Rutley, WR Noel Grigsby, OT David Quessenberry, LB Keith Smith, LB Tiuke Tuipulotu, S Duke Ihenacho, K/P Harrison Waid

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: San Jose State welcomes back plenty of experience from a team that won only one game; that counts for something, right? MacIntyre certainly hopes so. Spring was spent fine-tuning what was learned a year ago. A lot of talented sophomores are roaming free.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The Spartans weren't very good last year in any phase of the game. They spent the spring looking for a new signal-caller and trying to solidify a defense that gave up too many yards and points. Yes, having a lot of returning starters is normally a good thing. But these guys need to improve in order for that theory to hold true here.

OFFENSE

The biggest question mark is just who will be under center. Exiting spring ball, the three-headed quarterback monster survived into fall camp, with coach Mike MacIntyre reluctant to cut off the head of any of them.

Senior Matt Faulkner could very well be the leading contender since he's the only one with any major college experience, but sophomore Dasmen Stewart and redshirt freshman Blake Jurich remain in the mix. All threw a touchdown pass in the spring game.

Returning wideout Noel Grigsby will be an inviting target. The sophomore caught 56 passes for 822 yards and four touchdowns last season, earning second-team All-WAC honors. Tight end Ryan Otten can also go up and get it.

Senior running back Brandon Rutley can get it done. He rushed for 461 yards and four scores last season to lead the ground game. The Spartans also return three starters up front to give them some experienced players on this side of the ball.

DEFENSE

San Jose State has a wealth of experience with 11 returning starters, which doesn't include all-star safety Duke Ihenacho, who redshirted last year because of injury.

Ihenacho is one of only five Spartans to be named first-team All-WAC in back-to-back seasons, giving MacIntyre some glue in the secondary.

The senior has started 32 games, compiling 195 tackles, three forced fumbles, six interceptions and 17 pass break-ups. He also has played linebacker.

Last year as a freshman, linebacker Keith Smith tried to fill Ihenacho's cleats and did quite a job, leading the team in tackles with 116, including 14 for loss. He was a key component in the forced youth movement.

The Spartans weren't very good statistically, yielding a staggering 34.7 points and 463.7 yards a game. But with a year's experience, the defense should be better, particularly if injuries are avoided.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore Harrison Waid serves as the placekicker and the punter. He finished second in the WAC in punting, averaging 43.8 yards per attempt. Waid also hit 14 of 22 field goal attempts, including a long of 46 yards against Utah State. And he handles the kickoffs.

MacIntyre did look at another placekicker in the spring game, but for now, Waid is the man to do it all.

Rutley is the return man on punts, with Ronnie Yell and Brandon Driver back to return kicks. The Spartans didn't generate a touchdown in the return game last year and gave up two on punts.

OVERVIEW

It's hard to get too excited about a group that managed only one win last year. Granted, this team had its fair share of injuries, losing nine defensive starters through the first three games, but the Spartans still took a big step backward from the Dick Tomey era. Give MacIntyre some time and maybe San Jose State can escape the WAC cellar. The Spartans have some individual talent capable of lifting the game of those around them.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Joe Gray: The incoming freshman from Inglewood, Calif., was ranked among the top 50 quarterbacks in the country by ESPN. It might be tough for him to crack the starting lineup, but SJSU's top recruit could get a shot if the Spartans struggle early.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	7	Matt Faulkner	6-2	210	Sr.
RB	**9**	**Brandon Rutley***	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**
WR	17	Kyle Nunn	6-2	200	So.
WR	**23**	**Noel Grigsby***	**5-10**	**170**	**So.**
WR	89	Chandler Jones	5-11	174	So.
TE	**82**	**Ryan Otten***	**6-5**	**235**	**Jr.**
LT	65	Fred Koloto	6-3	300	Sr.
LG	**75**	**Nicholas Kaspar***	**6-4**	**284**	**So.**
C	70	Robbie Reed	6-3	290	Sr.
RG	**78**	**Andres Vargas***	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**
RT	**76**	**David Quessenberry***	**6-6**	**295**	**Jr.**
DEFENSE					
DE	**83**	**Cedric Lousi***	**6-2**	**265**	**So.**
DT	**92**	**Pablo Garcia***	**6-2**	**283**	**Sr.**
DT	**97**	**Anthony Larceval***	**6-2**	**272**	**So.**
DE	**43**	**Travis Johnson***	**6-3**	**244**	**Jr.**
LB	**40**	**Tiuke Tuipulotu***	**5-11**	**205**	**Sr.**
LB	**36**	**Vince Buhagiar***	**6-4**	**244**	**So.**
LB	**31**	**Keith Smith***	**6-2**	**225**	**So.**
CB	**19**	**Peyton Thompson***	**5-11**	**180**	**Sr.**
CB	**25**	**Ronnie Yell***	**5-10**	**188**	**Jr.**
SS	2	Duke Ihenacho	6-1	210	Sr.
FS	**5**	**Alex Germany***	**5-9**	**190**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
10	**K**	**Harrison Waid***	**6-1**	**185**	**So.**
10	**P**	**Harrison Waid***	**6-1**	**185**	**So.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	at Stanford
Sept. 10	at UCLA
Sept. 17	NEVADA
Sept. 24	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 1	at Colorado State
Oct. 8	at BYU
Oct. 15	HAWAII
Oct. 29	at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 5	IDAHO
Nov. 12	at Utah State
Nov. 19	NAVY
Nov. 26	at Fresno State

2010 RESULTS

L	at Alabama	3-48
L	at Wisconsin	14-27
W	SOUTHERN UTAH	16-11
L	at Utah	3-56
L	UC DAVIS	13-14
L	at Nevada	13-35
L	BOISE STATE	0-48
L	FRESNO STATE	18-33
L	at New Mexico State	27-29
L	UTAH STATE	34-38
L	at Hawaii	7-41
L	LOUISIANA TECH	38-45
L	at Idaho (OT)	23-26

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	16.1	115
Rushing	78.5	119
Passing	236.5	45
Total	315.1	101
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	34.7	105
Rushing	203.2	104
Passing	260.5	111
Total	463.7	117
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
-7	-0.54	98

UTAH STATE | AGGIES

WAC rank: 5 | Record: 4-8 | WAC record: 2-6 (7th) | Stadium: Romney Stadium (25,513)

By Chadd Cripe

Photo by Douglas C. Pizac-US PRESSWIRE

"It's fun to be out and be involved with the kids every single day at a very high level."
– Head coach Gary Andersen, who is taking over defensive coordinator duties

AGGIES at a GLANCE

COACH: Gary Andersen – At Utah State: 8-16, 2 years
OVERALL: 12-23, 3 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Baldwin
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gary Andersen

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1997, Big West co-champions
LAST BOWL: 1997, Humanitarian
RETURNING STARTERS: 15; 9 offense, 6 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Robert Turbin, RB/KR Kerwynn Williams, WR Stanley Morrison, WR Matt Austin, LB Bobby Wagner, LB Kyle Gallagher

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Aggies will be well-stocked with fast playmakers on offense if they can avoid the injury bug that derailed them a year ago. The offensive line returns four starters who actually were on the field last year, so the Aggies should score points.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Quarterback Diondre Borel is gone, leaving a wide-open race for the keys to an otherwise-talented offense. The defense was terrible last year and the secondary was gutted by graduation. Both kickers likely will be new, too.

OFFENSE

The Aggies expected a breakout offensive season in 2010 – and perhaps a run at a bowl game – but injuries decimated the skill players and they averaged 22 points a game instead.

Those key players return this year – guys like running backs Robert Turbin (who rushed for nearly 1,300 yards and scored 13 touchdowns in 2009) and Michael Smith, and receivers Matt Austin and Stanley Morrison.

Given their absences for most or all of last season, they might not technically count as returning starters, but their returns are a boon to a team trying to rise in the WAC. They give the Aggies speed and versatility, and should make this a big-play team again.

The issue is at quarterback, where standout Diondre Borel will be replaced by an untested player. Junior college transfer Adam Kennedy and redshirt freshman Alex Hart were the top performers in spring ball.

Coaches hope to choose a starter early in fall camp, but don't expect dynamic play from either. They want someone to make smart decisions and allow the veteran playmakers to work.

DEFENSE

The Aggies have switched to a 3-4 scheme, and coach Gary Andersen, the former defensive coordinator at Utah, has assumed coordinating duties. Andersen missed being a hands-on coach and hopes the new scheme will better fit his personnel.

The defense ranked 101st in the nation in scoring last season at 33.8 points per game, and it was 100th in total defense at 428.8 yards per game.

Four starters return along the front seven, most notably senior All-WAC linebacker Bobby Wagner. Wagner, a first-team honoree in each of the past two years, has 298 career tackles. Senior linebacker Kyle Gallagher has 191.

The three new starters in the front seven exiting spring ball were two freshmen and a junior college transfer. The secondary will feature three new starters and likely returning free safety Walter McClenton, a senior. The top corners in spring ball were both sophomores.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Aggies led the WAC last year with a 25.2-yard average on kickoff returns but struggled in every other special teams category. They're counting on a freshman kicker and a transfer punter to patch two of those holes.

Junior Kerwynn Williams set WAC and school records last year with 1,444 kickoff-return yards, for a WAC-best 27.2-yard average.

OVERVIEW

Andersen's first year was marked by missed opportunities. His second year was haunted by injuries. His third year will be intriguing. This team is loaded with offensive weapons and could be fun to watch if the new quarterback produces. Plus, the defense figures to confound some opponents with Andersen's knack for varied looks.

Utah State's schedule includes six home games (rare for the Aggies), but with games at Auburn, BYU, Fresno State and Hawaii, the Aggies will have to show improved poise and depth to contend for a bowl berth.

TOP NEWCOMER

NG Tevita Vaifoou: The freshman from Hawaii, who redshirted last year, steps into a starting role at nose guard, a critical job as the Aggies switch to a 3-4 defense. He'll have returning starters on each side of him, which should help his transition.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	2	Adam Kennedy	6-5	210	Jr.
TB	**6**	**Robert Turbin***	**5-10**	**216**	**Jr.**
WR	**11**	**Stanley Morrison***	**5-9**	**150**	**Jr.**
WR	82	Eric Moats	6-0	178	Sr.
WR	**4**	**Matt Austin***	**6-2**	**198**	**Sr.**
TE	**81**	**Kellen Bartlett***	**6-2**	**243**	**Sr.**
LT	**66**	**Eric Schultz***	**6-4**	**294**	**So.**
LG	**76**	**Funaki Asisi***	**6-2**	**295**	**Sr.**
C	**58**	**Tyler Larsen***	**6-4**	**297**	**So.**
RG	**68**	**Philip Gapelu***	**6-2**	**299**	**Sr.**
RT	69	Stetson Tenney	6-6	296	Jr.
DEFENSE					
DE	**37**	**Quinn Garner***	**6-3**	**263**	**Sr.**
NG	95	Tevita Vaifoou	6-1	270	Fr.
DE	**47**	**Levi Koskan***	**6-4**	**250**	**Sr.**
LB	16	Tavaris McMillian	6-2	227	Fr.
LB	**43**	**Kyle Gallagher***	**6-0**	**225**	**Sr.**
LB	**9**	**Bobby Wagner***	**6-1**	**232**	**Sr.**
LB	55	Bojay Filimoeatu	6-2	250	Jr.
CB	2	Cameron Sanders	5-10	173	So.
CB	6	Nevin Lawson	5-10	177	So.
SS	29	Alfred Bowden	5-11	201	Sr.
FS	**4**	**Walter McClenton***	**5-11**	**193**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	38	Jaron Bentrude	6-0	202	Fr.
P	N/A	Tyler Bennett	5-11	213	Jr.

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	at Auburn
Sept. 10	WEBER STATE
Sept. 24	COLORADO STATE
Sept. 30	at BYU
Oct. 8	WYOMING
Oct. 15	at Fresno State
Oct. 22	LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 5	at Hawaii
Nov. 12	SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 19	at Idaho
Nov. 26	NEVADA
Dec. 3	at New Mexico State

2010 RESULTS

L	at Oklahoma	24-31
W	IDAHO STATE	38-17
L	FRESNO STATE	24-41
L	at San Diego State	7-41
W	BYU	31-16
L	at Louisiana Tech	6-24
L	HAWAII	7-45
L	at Nevada	42-56
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	27-22
W	at San Jose State	38-34
L	IDAHO	6-28
L	at Boise State	14-50

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.0	94
Rushing	168.7	41
Passing	178.7	93
Total	347.3	84
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	33.8	101
Rushing	179.3	88
Passing	249.6	106
Total	428.8	100
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
-5	-0.42	83

BYU | COUGARS

Independent Record: 7-6 MWC record: 5-3 (T-3rd) Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)

By Natalie Meisler

Photo by Steve Beyer

"There are very few teams that can pull this off, and one of the reasons we can is because of our world-wide (LDS Church-based) fan base."
— BYU coach Bronco Mendenhall, on becoming an independent

COUGARS at a GLANCE

COACH: Bronco Mendenhall — At BYU and overall: 56-21, 6 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brandon Doman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bronco Mendenhall

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2007
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2004
RETURNING STARTERS: 18; 10 offense, 7 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Jake Heaps, RB JJ Di Luigi, WR McKay Jacobson, OT Matt Reynolds, LB Jordan Pendleton

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The veteran offense is without an apparent weakness. As a sophomore, Heaps looks to become the top-notch pro prospect many thought he could — and will — be. All-American Matt Reynolds anchors a typical BYU dominant line.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Injuries on defense last season to key players such as Pendleton and DT Romney Fuga contributed to some big holes. They need to come back strong in 2011, when the schedule is particularly tough early.

OFFENSE

Brigham Young embarks on its uncharted course as a football independent, carrying more changes on the offensive coaching staff than its entire starting lineup.

Only one starter — offensive tackle Jason Speredon — is gone. The Cougars made changes with their staff, including the departure of BYU grad and long-time offensive coordinator Robert Anae (now at Arizona).

Last year, in a rebuilding season for the offense, early losses were predictable. By the time BYU recovered for minor bowl eligibility, it was too late to save jobs as coach Bronco Mendenhall asked for resignations.

New coaches do not mean a different look. A mostly new list of opponents will learn BYU, true to its reputation, can still throw the ball.

Sophomore quarterback Jake Heaps, regarded in some circles as the 2010's top national quarterback prospect, took over after a season-ending shoulder injury to Riley Nelson in the third game. Heaps responded with school freshmen records of 2,316 passing yards and 15 touchdowns.

"The good news for Jake is almost everyone around him is back and with more depth," Mendenhall said.

The ground game is in excellent hands with running back JJ Di Luigi, a projected draft pick who rushed for 917 yards and caught 45 passes last season. The Cougars add three-year fullback Bryan Kariya. Josh Quezada is another option; he appeared to play at a faster pace in the spring.

The offense can't help but prosper behind an excellent line. Matt Reynolds leads four returning starters.

DEFENSE

The main challenge this year is replacing three starters in the secondary.

The good news is there are options. Besides Travis Uale returning as a free safety starter following an impressive spring, the Cougars are feeling good about returning missionary Daniel Sorenson at safety. Former fullback Mike Hague, who dropped nearly 40 pounds, could also factor into a safety position.

Junior college transfer Preston Hadley pushed for a cornerback job in the spring when projected boundary corner Corby Eason was out because of injury.

There is some strength on the line, especially with depth at the tackle position, led by Romney Fuga.

There is plenty of depth at linebacker, too, including Jordan Pendleton, who is returning from a knee injury. Returned missionary Spencer Hadley had a good spring, and USC transfer linebacker Uona Kaveinga is ready to make a big impact.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This is a traditional BYU strength in both the kicking and return departments. Former *Parade* All-American Justin Sorensen returns from a mission to be the placekicker. Starting punter Riley Stephenson is back after averaging 42.0 yards per boot.

OVERVIEW

BYU's departure from the MWC was based strictly on its television business model. Besides a sweetheart deal with ESPN, the Cougars wanted all-sports rebroadcast rights on its own church-run cable network.

On the field, BYU has a front-loaded schedule. If the Cougars can start strong against Ole Miss, Texas and Utah, they will be back in familiar Top 25 territory. If not, the Cougars no longer have the incentive of making a run in the Mountain West or having the traditional rivalry with Utah at the end of the schedule.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Uona Kaveinga: He played sparingly at USC in 2008 and 2009 before transferring to BYU and sitting out last season. Coach Bronco Mendenhall was impressed with Kaveinga's skill — and leadership — in the spring. "He's going to be fantastic," Mendenhall said.

2011 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Jake Heaps*	6-1	194	So.
RB	10	JJ Di Luigi*	5-9	190	Sr.
RB	33	Bryan Kariya*	6-0	218	Sr.
WR	6	McKay Jacobsen*	5-11	190	Sr.
WR	2	Cody Hoffman*	6-4	205	So.
TE	84	Devin Mahina*	6-6	236	So.
LT	70	Matt Reynolds*	6-6	322	Sr.
LG	76	Braden Hansen*	6-6	310	Jr.
C	60	Terence Brown*	6-4	330	Sr.
RG	71	Walter Kahalali'i	6-3	334	Jr.
RT	75	Braden Brown*	6-6	300	Jr.

DEFENSE

DE	41	Matt Putnam*	6-6	271	Sr
NT	98	Romney Fuga*	6-2	304	Jr.
DE	55	Eathyn Manumaleuna*	6-2	295	Jr.
LB	1	Jordan Pendleton*	6-3	239	Sr.
LB	4	Uona Kaveinga	5-11	255	Jr.
LB	44	Brandon Ogletree*	5-11	225	Jr.
LB	48	Jameson Frazier*	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	26	Robbie Buckner	5-10	176	Jr.
CB	25	Corby Eason	5-8	172	Sr.
SS	17	Daniel Sorensen	6-2	200	So.
FS	23	Travis Uale*	6-2	197	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Justin Sorensen	6-2	230	So.
P	99	Riley Stephenson*	6-0	203	Jr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2011 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	at Ole Miss
Sept. 10	at Texas
Sept. 17	UTAH
Sept. 23	UCF
Sept. 30	UTAH STATE
Oct. 8	SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 15	at Oregon State
Oct. 22	IDAHO STATE
Oct. 28	vs. TCU
Nov. 12	IDAHO
Nov. 19	NEW MEXICO STATE
Dec. 3	at Hawaii

2010 RESULTS

W	WASHINGTON	23-17
L	at Air Force	14-35
L	at Florida State	10-34
L	NEVADA	13-27
L	at Utah State	16-31
W	SAN DIEGO STATE	24-21
L	at TCU	3-31
W	WYOMING	25-20
W	UNLV	55-7
W	at Colorado State	49-10
W	NEW MEXICO	40-7
L	at Utah	16-17
	New Mexico Bowl	
W	vs. UTEP	52-24

2010 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	26.1	70
Rushing	168.1	42
Passing	198.4	76
Total	366.5	73

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.6	32
Rushing	138.6	45
Passing	192.2	23
Total	330.9	24

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+2	+0.15	47

A LOOK BACK

5 Years Ago: 2006

USC was vulnerable in the post-Matt/Reggie/LenDale era, and after a few close calls, the Trojans finally fell on Oct. 28. Oregon State ended Troy's 27-game conference winning streak, 33-31, when defensive lineman Jeff Van Orsow batted down a two-point conversion attempt with seven seconds left. That opened the door for Cal, but USC slammed it shut on Nov. 18, when the Trojans scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to beat the Bears, 23-9. UCLA's defense smothered USC two weeks later 13-9 — another tipped pass doomed quarterback John David Booty — in a game that had national title implications, but none for the Pac-10 race. The Trojans still took home an unprecedented (at the time) fifth consecutive Pac-10 title and won at least 11 games for the fifth consecutive season.

Pac-10 Champion: USC (11-2, 7-2)

Pac-10 MVPs: Marshawn Lynch, RB, Cal; Daymieon Hughes, CB, Cal

Heisman Trophy: Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State; 9th — Dwayne Jarrett, WR, USC

National Champion: Florida. The Gators dominated Ohio State in a 41-14 victory that started the SEC on its run of five consecutive national titles.

10 Years Ago: 2001

Joey Harrington

Photo by Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images

Good enough to be league champs, we'll never know if Oregon was good enough to be national champs. A loss to Stanford in the seventh game prevented the Ducks from going 11-0 and playing Miami in the national championship Rose Bowl. The BCS computers spit out Nebraska's name instead to be the Hurricanes' foil, even though the Huskers failed to advance to the Big 12 title game. Oregon had the gutsiest QB in the land, Joey Harrington, a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in Maurice Morris and Onterrio Smith, and a deep group of wideouts. In the Fiesta Bowl, the Ducks routed Colorado (38-16), which had clobbered those Cornhuskers to end the regular season.

Pac-10 Champion: Oregon (11-1, 7-1)

Pac-10 MVPs: Joey Harrington, QB, Oregon; Robert Thomas, LB, UCLA

Heisman Trophy: Eric Crouch, QB, Nebraska; 4th — Harrington

National Champion: Miami (beat Nebraska in the Rose Bowl, which hosted the national championship game).

15 Years Ago: 1996

Quarterback Jake "The Snake" Plummer led Arizona State to within three points of a 12-0 season, and the national title as, the Sun Devils averaged 42.8 points, the most in Pac-10 history at the time. The key game was the season-opener against Washington. The Sun Devils took a 42-21 fourth-quarter lead before UW rallied to tie the game. ASU then took a 45-42 victory on a last-second field goal. When the season ended almost three months later, those three points were all that separated 8-0 ASU and 7-1 Washington. ASU charged into the Rose Bowl, staged a fourth-quarter rally and appeared to be on its way over Ohio State, before Plummer and the Devils got a taste of their own medicine when Joe Germaine led the Buckeyes to a late rally to upend ASU, 20-17.

Pac-10 Champion: Arizona State (11-1, 8-0)

Pac-10 MVPs: Jake Plummer, QB, Arizona State; Jason Chorak, LB, Washington

Heisman Trophy: Danny Wuerffel, QB, Florida; 3rd — Plummer

National Champion: Florida (beat Florida State in the Sugar Bowl).

20 Years Ago: 1991

Mike Pawlawski

Photo by Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images

Washington went undefeated to win a share of the national title — the only time a Pac-10 team other than USC has won a national title in more than half a century. The Huskies were so dominant that only one team all season came within seven points. In eight Pac-10 games, UW allowed a mere 77 points. Washington thumped Michigan, 34-14, in the Rose Bowl, holding Heisman winner Desmond Howard to one catch for 35 yards. Steve Emtman won the Lombardi and Outland trophies, and then bypassed his senior season to become the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft.

Pac-10 Champion: Washington (12-0, 8-0)

Pac-10 MVPs: Mike Pawlawski, QB, Cal; Mario Bailey, WR, Washington; Steve Emtman, DT, Washington

Heisman Trophy: Desmond Howard, WR-RS, Michigan; 4th — Emtman

National Champion: Miami (AP poll, beat Nebraska in the Orange Bowl); Washington (coaches poll, beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl).

25 Years Ago: 1986

One of the most unbalanced races in Pac-10 history helped lead to the end of the unbalanced schedule. The 1986 season ended with six teams finishing with five wins apiece (ASU, UCLA, Washington, Arizona, Stanford and USC). But while the latter five teams all played eight games that season, ASU played only seven, losing only one (at rival Arizona), to wrap up the first Rose Bowl in school history. ASU went on to beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl, which helped earn coach John Cooper the coaching job at Ohio State two years later.

Pac-10 Champion: Arizona State (10-1-1, 6-1)

Pac-10 MVPs: Brad Muster, RB, Stanford; Byron Evans, LB, Arizona

Heisman Trophy: Vinny Testaverde, QB, Miami

National Champion: Penn State (beat Miami in the Fiesta Bowl, 14-10).

50 Years Ago: 1961

Ernie Davis

Photo by Hy Peskin /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

The Athletic Association of Western Universities — five teams that had come together following the pay-for-play scandal that had leveled the Pacific Coast Conference at the end of the 1950s — had one big thing going for it: The Rose Bowl. And when UCLA captured the league title with a 3-1 record (by beating USC), it went to Pasadena with a 7-3 overall mark and got the eyes of the country ... in living color. The game against Minnesota was a forgettable 21-3 affair, but it was the first nationally televised football game in color. Since it was an 80-degree day with bright sunshine, the league and UCLA were long-term winners.

AAWU Champion: UCLA (7-4, 3-1)

Heisman Trophy: Ernie Davis, RB, Syracuse

National Champion: Alabama (beat Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl, 10-3).

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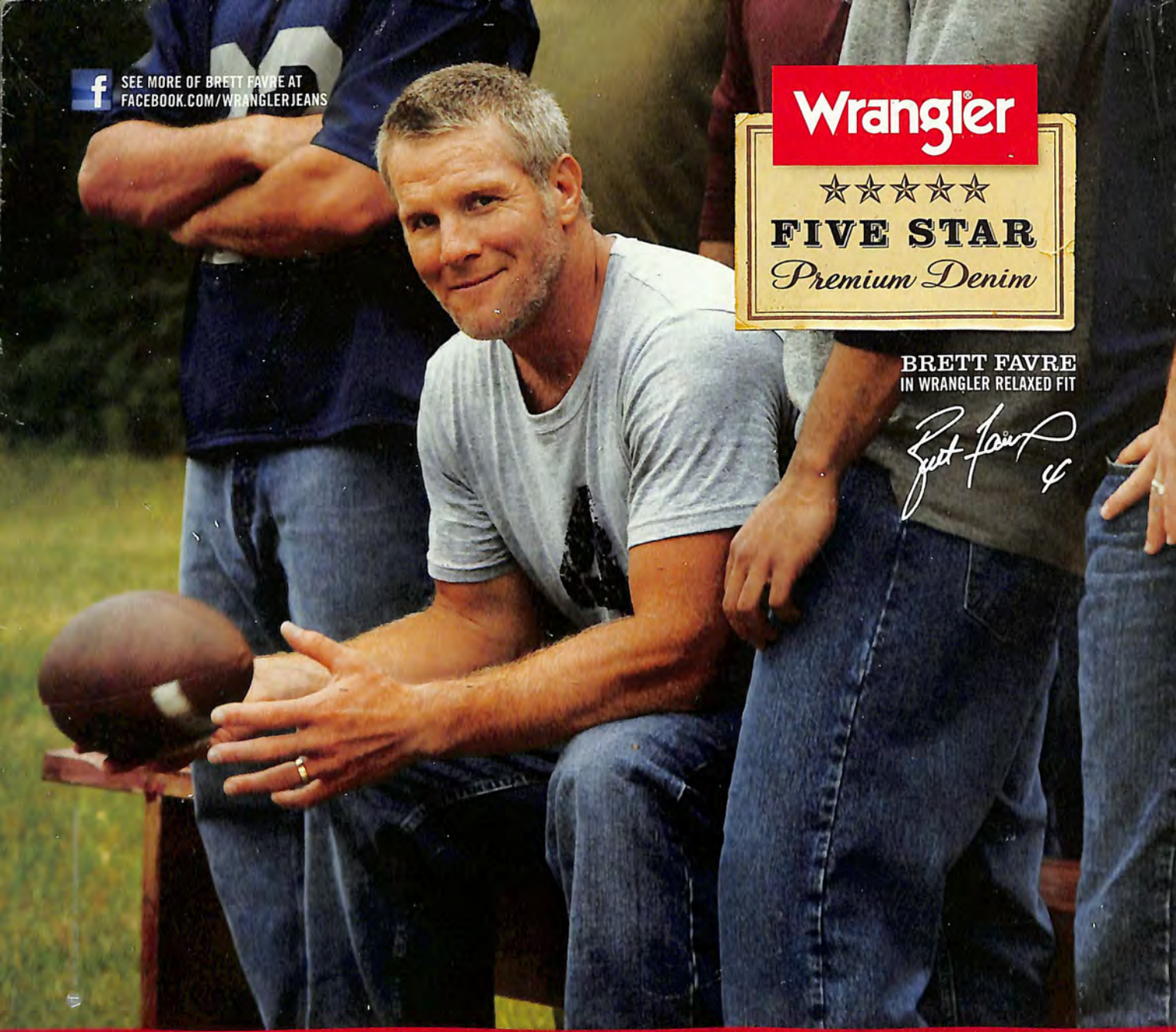

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